

THE
Grand Concern
OF
ENGLAND
EXPLAINED;
IN SEVERAL
PROPOSALS
Offered to the Consideration of the
PARLIAMENT.

1. For Payment of Publick Debts.
2. For Advancement and Encouragement of Trade.
3. For Raising the Rents of Lands.

In Order whereunto, It is proved Necessary,

- I. That a Stop be put to further Buildings in and about London.
 - II. That the Gentry be obliged to live some part of the Year in the Countrey.
 - III. That Registers be settled in every Countrey.
 - IV. That an Act for Naturalizing all Foreign Protestants, and Indulging them, and His Majesty's Subjects at home, in Matters of Conscience, may be passed.
 - V. That the Act Prohibiting the Importation of Irish Cattel, may be Repealed.
 - VI. That Brandy, Coffee, Mum, Tea, and Chocolata, may be prohibited.
 - VII. That the Multitude of Stage-Coaches and Caravans may be suppressed.
 - VIII. That no Leather may be Exported Un-manufactured.
 - IX. That a Court of Conscience be settled for Westminster, and all the Suburbs of London, and in every City and Corporation in England.
 - X. That the Extravagant Habits and Expence of all Persons may be curbed; the Excessive Wages of Servants and Handicrafts-men may be Reduced, and all Foreign Manufactures may be prohibited.
 - XI. That it may be made Lawfull to Assign Bills, Bonds, and other Securities; and that a Course be taken to prevent the Knavery of Bankrupts.
 - XII. That the Newcastle-Trade for Coals may be managed by Commissioners, to the Ease of the Subjects, and great Advantage of the Publick.
 - XIII. That the Fishing-Trade may be vigorously prosecuted, all poor People set at work to make Fishing-Tackle, and be paid out of the Money Collected every Year for the Poor, in the several Parishes in England.
- By a Lover of his Countrey, and Well-wisher to the Prosperity both of the King and Kingdoms.

London, Printed in the Year, 1673.

THE
Grand Council

ENGLAND

PROPOSALS

Offered to the Commissioners of the

Public Works

of the Government

for the Improvement of the

Public Works

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PROPOSALS humbly offered to consideration of the Parliament, &c.

1. *For discharging the Publick Debts of the Kingdom.*
2. *For Encouraging and Advancement of Trade.*
3. *The Increase of the Rents of Lands.*

THE Honour, Interest and Safety of a Kingdom lies in maintaining the Grandure and Dignity of their KING, and the Prerogative of his Crown; The which can no way be better secured, than by providing him a plentiful Revenue wherewith to defray the Publick Expences of the Kingdom, encourage and help all his Friends and Allies, maintain Forces for his Own, his Subjects, and the Kingdoms Safeguard at home, and a sufficient Fleet at Sea for the Security of Trade abroad, and Defence of his Kingdom against all Forreign Princes and Potentates; and wherewith also to discharge such Publick Debts as are justly owing to any person upon valuable Consideration.

If the payment of Publick Debts were provided for, the rest would be easily secured, without any great Charge to the People, and the King be freed from the necessity of calling for fresh Supplie every year from his Subjects, which now comes very hard, and makes Parliaments uneasy to themselves as well as to those whose Representatives they are.

The vast Debt contracted by his Majesty when beyond the Seas, the great Summs he hath since his happy Restauration given to relieve some of the many poor (yet Loyal) Subjects, that served him and his Royal Father faithfully, and lost their Limbs and Estates in their Service; The great Debts he found the Kingdom in to the Army and Navy when he came first home, which are all paid off, excepting about 150000 £. that hath been under consideration of the Parliament, which if not paid, will be the ruine of many thousands of poor Families, who

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advanced the same for his Majesties Service, and it was all employed for the bringing him home.

The great charge of the last and this present Dutch War, both which his Majestie hath been necessitated unto, for the preservation of the dignity of his Person, (which they so basely scorn'd and contemn'd) the Honour of his Kingdom, and the interest and security of Trade: these, together with the Moneys expended in the reparations of his Ruined Houses, repurchasing his own Goods, and others for furnishing his Royal Palaces, and many other publick affairs, have called for frequent and great Supplies.

Which howbeit the Parliament have thought fit freely to grant when the King hath desired the same, and passed severall Acts for Pole-money, Benevolence-money, Subsidies, Hearth-money, additional Excise, Taxes upon the Law, poundage upon Rents, and Land-Taxes, yet the publick Debts are very great, and the reason of it is plainly because whatever hath been given (excepting Land-Taxes) was so overvalued in the granting thereof, the Grants so uncertain, the Collecting so troublesome and chargeable, the Payment so vexatious to the People, that the end of the Parliament hath not been answered, the King hath not had the Supply intended, nor the Subjects the benefit or ease designed; but the quite contrary events have hapned.

So that it's humbly conceived there's nothing can be more for the Interest and advantage of the King and Kingdom, than for the Parliament to examine what the publick Debts really are, how contracted, and when; and to see where the King has been well or ill used, where Persons have made usurious or advantageous Contracts, and taken advantage of the King's necessities, to impose ill Commodities and at unreasonable rates upon him, and there to reduce the Debt to such a proportion, as the Commodity sold was (at the time of such Sale) really worth; and to see where the King hath been justly dealt with; which done, and the Accounts being brought to Balance, and the Debt stated and known; then at once to raise so much Money as may discharge the whole, and appoint Persons to see the money so to be raised, disposed to that and no other use; allowing them indifferent Salaries for their pains, that so they may mind the work, and receive no manner of Fees or advantage from the Creditor, whereby the publick Debts may be lessened: for whoever hath trusted the King, had a respect (in setting his price on the Commodities sold) to the time he thought he should stay for his Money, the uncertainty of ever receiving it, the vast Charge he must be at in Exchequer Fees, Gratuities, &c. when
ever

ever he should have obtained the same, inſomuch that publick Debts were and are frequently ſold at ſixty or ſeventy pounds *per cent.* And ſo, what hinders but that if this Buſineſs be prudently managed by Perſons to be intruſted for that purpoſe, the publick Debts may be leſſened, and the more eaſily paid? which done, the Subjects may reaſonably expect, and hope for the future to be at quiet and freed from the fears they are now under of a Parliaments meeting, leſt ſtill there ſhould be freſh ſupplies for the purpoſes aforeſaid demanded, and given, and no end be known of ſuch Gifts; and yet to his Maſteſty and the Kingdoms great diſhonour both at home and abroad, the publick Debts ſtill remain undiſcharged. And if Money for this purpoſe ſhall be by the Parliament thought fit to be given, It is humbly offered and ſubmitted to their conſiderations, whether there can be any way in the World found, more certain, equal, and eaſie, to raiſe the ſame, than by a Land-Tax: for then they will know what it is they give, when and how certainly it will come in, and the time when the ſame will end, and may proportion their Contracts and Payments accordingly. Beſides, a Land-Tax will be a certain Fond for to advance Money upon in a ſhort time, at eaſie Intereſt, wherewith ſpeedily to diſcharge and pay off thoſe Debts, for which now great intereſt is to be paid.

I know it will be Objected, that Land is a Drug, bears little or no Price to be let, or be ſold; what Rent it is let for, Tenents are not able to pay; for to lay Taxes upon that, would utterly undo the Gentry, who have nothing to live upon but their Rents.

To this I anſwer, that it is very true, Lands let poorly, Rents are ill paid, and yeild very little, if ſold. But let us examine the Reaſons hereof, and ſee if ſome things may not be propoſed to remedy thoſe Miſchiefs, and bring Land to its former value: which if we do, then every Man will certainly be of Opinion that a Land-Tax is the beſt way to raiſe Money, and be glad on that Condition to have it impoſed.

I am of Opinion, that Gentlemens being wanting to themſelves, is the greateſt occaſion of the decay of their Eſtates, and lowering of their Rents. Now in Order to the bringing them to the ſame Rate and Value, if not to a better than they formerly bore, I humbly propoſe that theſe ſeveral Particulars following (which can only be done by Act of Parliament) may be enacted as Laws. And I ſhall endeavour to Demonſtrate the Miſchiefs we ſuffer for want of them, and the great Advantages we may rationally expect to receive by their being Enacted.

1. I propose that a stop be put to any farther Buildings in or about the Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, Borough of *Southwark*, or in any place within the Weekly-Bills of Mortality, the Head being already too big for the Body. And that a years Value of all Houses Built upon New Foundations may by the Owners of such Houses be paid to the King towards payment of Publick Debts, which would advance above 300000 *l.*

2. That all the Nobility and Gentry of *England* who have Estates in the Country, and are not obliged to attend on His Majesty by reason of their Offices, be enjoined with their Families to live where their Estates do lie, so many Months in each year as to the Wisdom of Parliament shall seem meet.

3. That a Bill be passed for setting up of Registers in every County for Registering Sales, Mortgages, Leases for term of Years or Lives, and all other real Securities, and if possible all Bonds, &c. which Work may be done with little charge to the Subject, and yet a profit of above 50000 *l. per annum* arise to the Publick.

4. That an Act for a General Naturalizing of all Foreign Protestants be passed, and an assurance of Liberty of Conscience given to all that shall come over into *England*, and place themselves and Families amongst us. And that the same privilege be given to his Majesties Subjects at home.

5. That the Act for prohibition of the Importation of *Irish* Cattle be repealed, and a Trade between the two Kingdoms Established, whereby his Majesties Revenue of Customs would be advanced above 80000 *l. per annum.*

6. That *Brandy* and *Mum*, *Coffee* and *Tea* be prohibited, and Coffee-houses suppressed, which may be done without any diminution of his Majesties Revenue of Excise.

7. That the multitude of Stage-Coaches and Caravans now travelling upon the Roads be all or most of them suppressed; especially those within forty or fifty Miles of *London* where they are ino way necessary, and yet most numerous and mischievous; and that a due regulation be made of such as shall be thought fit to be continued. Which done, his Majesties Excise would be worth above 30000 *l. per annum* more than it now is, and the Post-Office by 6000 *l. per annum.*

8. That the Act for Transportation of Leather Unmanufactured be repealed, or so far discountenanced at least, that it be not renewed when the seven years is expired.

9. That a Court in the nature of the Court of Request in *London* be.

be established for *Westminster, Southwark*, and all parts within the Weekly-Bills of Mortality if possible, and in every City and Town Corporate in *England*, to determine differences between poor People, for small Debts, Words, or Trespases, that so they may not be undone by Law Suits.

10. That a Bound be put to the Extravagant Habits, and Expences of all sorts of Persons, that Servants and Handicraft Tradesmens excessive Wages may be reduced, and that no foreign Manufactures, except from *Ireland*, be suffered to be worn in *England*, but that the importation and exposing of them knowingly to Sale be both made Felony.

11. That it be made Lawful to assign Bills, Bonds and other Securities, And the Frauds of Men Breaking, with design to Enrich themselves out of their Creditors Estates may be prevented.

12. That the New-Castle Trade for Coles may be managed by Commissioners for his Majesty, which would be a great advantage to the Subjects, and raise his Majesty above 300000 *l. per annum*.

13. That the Fishing Trade be encouraged, all Poor set at Work to provide Tackle for that use, and be paid out of the Money Collected yearly in every Parish throughout *England* for relief of the Poor, which would be of vast advantage to the Publick.

In Order to the evincing of the necessity of Prohibiting any of further Building in and about *London*, and *Westminster*, and of the Gentries being confined to live some part of the year upon their Estates in the Country, I desire every serious considerate Person, that knew *London* and *Westminster*, and the Suburbs thereof, forty or fifty years ago, (when *England* was far richer and more populous than now it is) to tell me whether by Additional Buildings upon new Foundations, the said Cities and Suburbs, since that time, are not become at least a third part bigger than they were; and whether in those days they were not thought and found large enough, to give a due reception to all persons that were fit, or had occasion to resort thither (whereupon all further Buildings on new Foundations (even in those dayes) were prohibited? Nevertheless, above thirty thousand Houses great and small have been since built, the consequences whereof may be worthy of our consideration. These Houses are all inhabited, considering then what multitudes of whole Families, formerly dwelling in and about the said Cities, were cut off by the two last dreadful Plagues, as also by the War abroad and at home, by Land and by Sea; and how many have transported themselves, (or been transported) into our foreign Plantations; and it must naturally follow, that those who inhabit these new Houses and many of the old

ones, must be persons coming out of the Country ; which makes so many Inhabitants the less there, where they are most needful and wanting. For, the occasion of the Rents of Lands falling every year, arises not so much from Lands growing worse, as because of the want of Tenants with good Stocks to manage the Farms they take. And this mischief hath been, and is in great measure occasioned by these additional Buildings ; for, had they not been erected, those who inhabit them, would have been in the Country, living an Industrious and Laborious Life, improving their Stocks, and thereby advantaging Gentlemens Lands, and the Trade of the Nation. But now, if a Man get two or three Hundred pounds in his Pocket, up he comes to *London*, takes a House, payes a Fine, layes out the rest of his Money in furnishing it for Lodgers, thereby promising himself a lazy Life, free from care ; or else he sets up an Alehouse, or Brandy House, (both tending to the debauching and destroying of Youths) when as had there not been these Buildings to draw them hither, and give shelter, then those Men with their three or four hundred pounds a piece Stocks employed in the Country, might have made each of them a good Tenant, for a Farme of 100 or 200 *l. per annum* ; which Farms by their removing to *London*, are thrown into the Landlords hands so that by a moderate Calculation, it is judged, that there are 60000 Families at least now in and about *London*, more than would or could conveniently have been, if these Houses had not been Built ; which Families if they had continued in the Country, would have kept up the value of Lands which fall only for want of Tenants : If therefore more Buildings should be hereafter erected ; more Mischiefs in all probability will be done of this kind to the Country ; And really, Gentlemen may thank themselves for the prejudice they receive by these means, they having given the example, and been the occasion thereof. For, they never thinking their Estates would have an end, weary of an honest and commendable Country-life, come up to *London* to see fashions, fall into ill company, learn how to run out of all their Estates in a short time, by extravagant Habits, gaming, drinking, and other debaucheries, destructive to their Healths as much as Estates ; As if to have lived in the Country upon their own Estates and to have taken care of and managed them, and kept a handsome retinue of Servants, and a good House of Hospitality, and to have taken off their Tenants Provisions for their Family expences, in part of their Rents, relieving and setting the Poor at work, and encouragement of Art, Industry and Labour, were not so commendable in them, or so much for their Advantage, and Honour, as to live idly in *London*, pursuing their lustful pleasures, paying

paying, whilst their own houses stand empty, and go to ruine for want of being inhabited, more for their Lodgings than would maintain their Families handsomely in the Country, and encrease the Consumption of the Provisions, and Manufactures of the Kingdom, than which nothing can conduce more to the Improvement of Land. I would desire to know of any sober Person, how far the many Gentlemen who have thus foolishly and idly run themselves out of their Estates, have done good with the same? who is the better for it? Is the Country, where their Estates lie, or their Tenants that rent them? or the poor Inhabitants about them? No, not at all, but all are the worse, and undone thereby, for when these Persons come first to *London*, they bring up all the Money they can get in *specie*, and no sooner do their Rents grow due in the Country, but they or their Bailiffs or Stewards rack the poor Tenants for the same, gather in all that they can get, and sue, or distrain where Money is not presently to be had, taking away Tenants Cattel, selling them for half their worth, and thereby ruine not only idle Persons or ill Husbands that have run out of their Stocks, but also many Industrious men and great husbands, who have Stock and Goods enough (if sold) wherewith to answer the Rent; and the want of a vent for the product of their Farms is the only reason why they could not raise present Money for their Landlords. How many persons by these means have been undone! forced to leave their Farms! which thereby have been thrown into their Owners hands; who have been forced both to abate Rents, and keep their Farms a year or two without making any thing of them, before they could dispose of them again. And I know none the better for these things but the Gentries and Nobilities Bailiffs and Stewards, who being entrusted to Let and Set, Receive Rents and manage their Masters Estates, do by their neglecting to call them to account, or looking after and disposing their own Affairs, grow vastly Rich, and frequently in Trustees names become Purchasers of their Masters Estates; whilst they in the mean time, by means as aforesaid, become greatly impoverished. The rather, for that frequently, when they receive their Masters Rents, they pretend the Tenants have them in their hands, and put their Masters thereby under necessity of borrowing Money for their present Supplies; which when they have done, they being employed to procure the same, do frequently furnish them with their own Money, making them pay Brocage, Procuration and Continuation-Money, and Interest for the same, which helps forward their Ruine.

In short, these New Buildings are advantageous to none but to the Owners of the Ground on which they are built, who have raised their
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wonted Rents from a hundred pound to five or six hundred pound *per annum*, besides the Improvements in Reversion ; or to the Builders, who by slight building on long Leases, make ten or twelve pound *per cent.* of their moneys. But the advantage of these persons being the Countries great prejudice, Therefore in my poor Opinion, it seems agreeable to Reason that they ought to help to pay the publick Debts of the Kingdom ; and the Country (who are hurt by them) should be eased : And for them to pay one year, or a year and halfs Improved Rent to the King, would not be much, considering the greatness of the Improvement they have and are like to make. So that admitting that there are 30000 Houses Built upon New Foundations as aforesaid, and that each of those Houses (one with another) should pay but 10 *l. per annum* Rent, and the King should have but one years Rent from each House, the same would amount unto above 300000 *l.* which would go a great way in the discharging the publick Debts ; But one years Rent from each of these Houses (it is conceived) would come to above 500000 *l.* and the enforcing them that have Built contrary to the Statute to pay such a Fine, would deter others from Building for the future ; of which there can be no need ; considering that there are above 3000 brave Houses which, for the Honour of the Nation, are at great charge, to the ruine of the Builders, rebuilt, stand empty within *London* Walls, and are like so to do, by reason that the Trade is drawn out of the City to the new Erected Buildings in the Suburbs, where the Inhabitants have these advantages following.

1. They have Houses at easier rates, because built at lesser charge than those in the City, which were Built when all Materials were very scarce and dear, and Workmens Wages extream high.

2. They are certain in most places to raise their Rents by letting Lodgings, especially near the Inns of Court, *Whitehal* and *Westminster* ; the Gentry coveting to Lodge thereabouts, and they have not only Lodgings, but the advantage of their Customer also for such Commodities as they sell, and their Lodgers want. Which hinders the Trade of the City, where little or no benefit at all is made by Lodgings.

3. They are not liable to a third penny of charges for Taxes and publick Duties that they are who live within the City ; whereby they can afford to sell at a lower rate than in *London* they can do. All which inevitably tends to destruction of the Trade within the Walls.

III.

THe Third thing proposed is, *A Bill of REGISTERS*; That in every County a Register may be setled, to Register all Bills of Sale, Judgments, Statutes, Recognizances, Bonds, Mortgages, Leases, and Conveyances of Land, than which nothing can be of greater advantage to Gentlemen, Security to Purchasers, or benefit to the publick, without hurt to any, unless the professors of the Law, or such who intend and design to defraud Purchasers.

Those therefore that shall oppose so excellent and beneficial an Act as this, must be either, first, such who live by the practice of the Law; or secondly, such as understand not their own Interest: or thirdly, such as design to live by defrauding others. The opposition arising from the practisers of the Law is not so much from their conviction that the thing in it self is not good, and beneficial to the publick, as from self-Interest, which too much governs all sorts of Men in this Age, Men being apt to prefer private advantage before a general good. I confess, a Register may prove a great hinderance to those of that profession: For, in short time it would prevent the multitudes of Suites that yearly arise between his Majesties Subjects occasioned by the Cheats that are committed for want of such a Registry as is proposed; and perhaps would save the Subjects at least two or three hundred thousand pounds *per annum* which now is spent in those Suites; which if prevented, and the Money saved to the People, would be employed in Trade, or spent upon the Manufactures and Provisions of the Kingdom; and so the number of Attourneys would not increase as of late they have done, there being at present about 6000 of them, besides Sollicitors, who live scattered about the Country: most of whom could not subsist but by making it their whole study and business, to promote Suites and Controversies, and encourage quarrellous persons to bring Actions against their Neighbours, for small petty Trespasses, or a frivolous hasty passionate Word or two; those persons of that employment taking advantage thereby, of enriching themselves, by impoverishing the Subjects: whereas were it not for them, such differences might happily be composed in a friendly and amicable way.

The second sort that I presume may oppose this Act are, Men not sensible of their own Interest and advantage, nor of that of the Pub-

lick; for, if a Register were kept of all Sales, Leases for Years, or Lives, Mortgages, Judgments, Statutes, Recognizances, and of all other real Securities, that will or can lay hold on Lands, so that in every County where any Gentlemans Estate lieth, a Man may know by the Register, what Estate he hath in that County, and what incumbrances are upon it : therefore if it were declared by Law, that no Incumbrance shall be good, but such as if made or entred into before the Act for settling Registers be passed, shall be registred within one year after the passing thereof; or if made or entered into after the passing the said Act, shall be registred within one month or two after such Conveyances, or Securities, are entred into or made, or otherwise be void, it would highly be for the advantage of all Gentlemen, that either have or may have Land to sell, or would borrow Money upon Mortgages. For, then they shall not need to be beholden unto those Men, that make it their Trades to dispose of Gentlemens Money, to help Gentlemen to Purchasers for their Lands, or to take up money upon Securities; whom now they are forced to make use of, and pay great sums for Brokerage, Procuration, and Continuation-Money. Whereupon I desire every Gentleman to consider, when he comes to London, and wants Money, how difficult a thing he finds it to supply himself therewith, (though he offer good Land-Security.) What begging, intreating, running from place to place? What expences is he put unto? And when all is done, let him consider whether he can be accommodated without City-Security, (which runs him into further obligations and expences to procure;) and if he does get such, whether he be evertheless constrained to pay 3, 4, or 5 *l. per cent.* for procuring and sometimes *vis & modis* 10 *l. per cent.* for what he borrows; And then, it being lent but for a year, the Procurers thereof and their Emissaries being wont to contrive which way to make their further advantage of the Borrowers, do commonly at the nine months end send them word, that the Persons whose Money they borrowed, have great occasions for the same and are forced to call it in, and must have it when due; but withall they usually advise them not to be troubled, or take any care; for if they cannot raise the Money themselves, they will furnish them elsewhere, having the like consideration for their pains as before; the which these Gentlemen are forced to agree unto, because perhaps they know not elsewhere to have it: And when they have thus done, then they go to the Persons, whose Money they had lent to these Gentlemen the year before, and tell them, that the Gentlemen that borrowed the same, desire to pay it in when it shall be due; who finding and believing their

their security good, are loth to receive it, never having given any direction to call it in, nor knowing how better to dispose thereof when they receive the same; whereupon to please them also, they inform them that other good security is ready for them, so that the Money shall not lie dead; and so they get the advantage of the Gentlemen that had the Money, by procuring other sums for them, in lieu thereof, and of the persons to whom they lend the Money so called in; Inasmuch that by frequent shifting the Loan-money from one hand to another, they sometimes receive to themselves from the persons borrowing, as much as the principal Sum lent amounted unto, for Procuration, Brokage and Continuation; whereby the Borrowers at last are brought to sell their Estates; and being reduced to such necessities by the Subtilties of these persons, are forced to be beholden to them to procure purchasers: which when they perceive, they usually play their game as followeth: the seller is by them perswaded that they can get no purchaser, but such as doth object against their Title; or their persons, using many frivolous delays, till they drive them to such distress, that they must sell at any rate: And then their living remote in the Country, or being under protections as Parliament-Men or Courtiers; or their Estates lying far from *London*, or the uncertainty of what Incumbrances may be thereupon, are Objections which they raise, pretending that all Men they propose their Estates unto (upon these or such-like accounts) are afraid to deal with them, unless such as wait for good bargains, and will not purchase except they can buy below the Market-price. By which means they so contrive the matter with the Venders, that they enforce them to sell that for thirteen, fourteen or fifteen years purchase, which really is worth twenty; And out of that Contract, their manner is to bargain for a good Gratuity for themselves; although they at the same time have agreed with the Purchaser that is to have the Land, for one or two years purchase more than they are to pay to the Sellers. And the better to manage their Designs, the Buyers are concealed, and the Land-Brokers and Jobbers of Land find other persons to personate the Purchaser, so that the Vender is never suffered to know or see them till the Writings be drawn; wherein the Considerations are frequently exprest to be a year or two's Purchase more than the Vender is to receive for the same. Which when they question the Reason of, they are informed that it is done, only to enable the Purchasers to demand better prices when they sell the same, and to keep up the reputed value thereof. Thus do they enrich themselves by imposing upon Gentlemen in extremity, through an artificial debasing the value of their Estates,

exacting great Gratuities from the Purchasers also. This is the common Practice of your Land-Brokers and Jobbers and their Contederates: But if Registers were settled, and all Incumbrances registred, so that men might be secure, no dormant Securities, after they have lent their Money upon Mortgages, or purchased for valuable Considerations, could be started up to defeat them of their Interests; and then Gentlemen that have Money lying dead by them, would be as glad to lend it, at easie rates, to honest Gentlemen upon good Security, as those that want it would be to be supplied therewith; And Lands undoubtedly would come to be worth, as formerly, twenty years purchase, if Men could but be secured in their Titles. So that all persons that either have, or suppose they ever may have any Estate to sell, or Money to borrow, understand not their own Interest, if they oppose the settling of the Registers proposed.

The last sort of people that I presume may be agriev'd at this Registry, are such who having lived high, and spent their Estates extravagantly, and perhaps entred into Judgments, Statutes, and Recognizances, to double the value thereof, and have mortgaged their Lands over and over, and then get Protections whereby they keep off Suits, or abscond themselves so that they cannot be found by their Creditors, and are wont thereby to keep their Estates in possession, and can no way for the future live but by doing further acts of dishonesty; which whilst their Estates remain in their possession, they have opportunity to do. Such unrighteous Actions will for the future be prevented, and the present Designs of this nature be defeated, if Registers be settled. So that such persons are concerned to oppose the same. But I hope such Creatures as these are, and their Designs, will easily be seen through, and have little respect given them by Parliament.

In short, Were the Registry as desired, settled, and the Profit arising thereby brought into the Exchequer, the Work may be done, good Allowances appointed for those that shall be employed therein, and but a small sum would be imposed upon the Subjects for Registering their Claim, and yet by computation at least 50000 *l. per annum* be brought into the Treasury: which would be an additional help towards payment of the Publick Debts.

I V.

THe Fourth Thing Proposed is, That an Act be passed for a general Naturalization of all Foreign Protestants, and for granting Liberty of Conscience to such of them as shall come over and Inhabit amongst us, and that the like Liberty be given to his Majesties Subjects at home. There is nothing so much wanting in *England* as People; and of all sorts of People, the Industrious and Laborious sort, and Handycraft-men, are wanted to Till and Improve our Land, and help to Manufacture the Staple-Commodities of the Kingdom; which would add greatly to the Riches thereof.

The two last great Plagues, the Civil Wars at Home, and the several Wars with *Holland*, *Spain*, and *France*, have destroyed several hundred thousands of Men, which lived amongst us; besides, vast numbers have Transported themselves, or been Transported into *Ireland*, and other our Foreign Plantations; who, when they were living amongst us, did Eat our Provisions, Wore off our Manufacturies; employed themselves in some Calling or other beneficial to the Nation; the want of which calls for a supply of People from some place or other; and it is, in my judgment, worthy our Observation, That the Men thus lost from amongst us, are of greater consideration; and the loss more mischievous to the Kingdom, than meerly the death or removal of so many Persons, considering that they were Men in the prime of their years, in perfect strength, such, who had they not dyed, or been killed, or removed, might every year have begotten Children, and thereby increased the World; So that three times the number of Children might have been better spared than they. For instance, Say there be but 100000 Men, by these means, gone from amongst us; and instead of them 300000 Children had been taken away, and the Men left, it would have been much better; for they in two years and a half, or three years time, might have gotten so many Children again; but the Men dying, or being gone, and the Children living, it may be ten or twenty years before they come to Marry and beget Children: And notwithstanding the great mischief this Nation hath sustained by the loss of these Men, yet so inconsiderate are the Inhabitants thereof, concerning their own Interest, (which, if possible, is to have the Kingdom full of People) that they are taking up another way to prevent the peopling thereof

for

for the future, there being almost all over *England* a Spirit of Madnes running abroad; and possessing Men agaiust Marrying, rather chusing to have Mistresses, by whom very few ever have any Children: And many Married Women, by their lewd Conversations, prevent the bringing forth many Children, which otherwise they might have had. These Humours and Practices, if continued, will prove so mischievous, that unless Foreigners come in amongst us, in few years there will not be People to Manure our Lands, Eat our Provisions, Wear our Manufactures, or Manufacture the Staple-Commodities that are of the growth of the Kingdom; without which, it is no wonder if Lands yield little Rent, or Sell not for above 14 or 15 years Purchase.

And if Foreigners must come over, or our Estates here grow worse, there must then Encouragement be given them so to do; else they will think themselves Well-Seated where they are, following their Trades, encreasing their Estates, Enjoying all the Liberties and Priviledges of Free-born Subjects, know how (and have Liberty and Encouragement) to improve their Estates; and when they have got them can keep them; therefore will never come themselves, nor bring over their Families or Estates amongst us here to be accounted of as Aliens and Strangers, such as may not purchase Estates amongst us; and if they do, shall not enjoy the same, nor their Children after them. That sort of people which we most want are such, who though they would come over, and dwell amongst us, yet cannot spare 50 or 60 *l.* out of their Stock to procure themselves naturalized by Act of Parliament; especially if they bring over Wife and Children with them (which would be more advantageous for us than for them to come over alone) Or if they should spare Money to Naturalize themselves; yet perhaps they may not have so much as to pay for the naturalizing of their Wives and Children; who, as our laws are, cannot be permitted to Inherit, what their Fathers purchase, unless they be naturalized also. So that an Act for a General Naturalization is absolutely necessary, if we will be supplied with People from Foreign parts; But the passing such Act alone, will not be sufficient to encourage Foreigners to come and dwell amongst us; there must be Liberty of Conscience also granted unto them; and they must be assured that they shall not be Imprisoned, Banished, or have their Estates seized, and taken from them, and sold, only for differing from the Church of *England*, in the way of their Discipline, whilst they agree in the Fundamentals of Religion, live peaceably under the Civil Government, and disturbe not the Government of the Church established; for they having such liberty abroad where they are, will not without assurance

ance of the same here, be induced to come amongst us ; How many thousands have left *England*, and gone to seek shelter in Foreign parts, for the persecution they were under for their Consciences, who otherwise, with their Families, would have Continued amongst us ? How many have been forced to leave their Trades, by being kept in Prison, and having their Goods and Estates taken from them ? How many, for fear of being undone, not knowing but that so soon as their Goods come into their Shops, they may be seized for their having been at Conventicles, have left their Trades, drawn off their Stocks, and keep up their Money (not knowing how soon they may have occasion to make use of it in the time of their distresses) which otherwise would have been employed in Trade to the benefit of the Kingdom ; How many thousands of Farmers have been necessitated to leave their Farms, and come to dwell in London ? or to live obscurely in the Country, for fear lest when they should have employed their Stocks, Plowed and Sowed their Land, Reaped their Corn, and Stocked their Pasture-Land, all should be taken from them, and they imprisoned, and forced from their Families, for their Religion ? Are not these great mischiefs to the Kingdom, and great reasons of the decay of Trade, and of Gentlemen their wanting Tenants for their Lands, (a thing so generally complained of all over *England*) that men are not suffered to live as they would do quietly, and employ and improve their Stocks, as they might do, to the advantage of Trade, and the Kingdom in General ; which if they were permitted, would occasion the Consumption of more of the provisions, and Manufactures of the Kingdom, Employ more poor people at Work, and thereby Improve the Rent of Lands, and would send many of the Gentry, and Farmers who left the Country for the Reasons aforesaid and now live obscure in London and some other places, back to their Country-houses or to their Farms again ; it would remove their Fears, quiet their Minds, and cause their Purfes again to be opened, and every one would be putting himself upon some way of Improving his Estate, and not live upon the main Stock, as now they are forced to do. It were greatly to be wished, that there were more love and Charity amongst us ; And that all men would Consider seriously what they do, when they take upon themselves thus to impose their own Principles upon all others, as such that are only right, and Condemn all others as Erroneous ; this is to magnifie themselves as Infallible, and despise all others.

Upon all these Reasons I humbly submit to Judgment, whether an Act for a general Naturalization, and Liberty of Conscience, be not absolutely necessary at this time ? And whether the Passing thereof may not be of great advantage to the Kingdom, since it would increase Trade,

Promote

Promote a vast Consumption of the Manufactures and Provisions of the Kingdom ; make us more Industrious, Imploy more of our Poor, Increase his Majesties Revenue of Customs, and bring our Lands to let for greater Rents, and to sell for more years Purchase than ever heretofore they would have done.

V.

THe Fifth Thing Propos'd is, That the Act for Prohibition of the Importation of Foreign Cattle, so far as it relates to *Ireland*, and *Westphalia*-Hams, may be Repealed.

This Act hath no way answered the end designed by the passing thereof, but on the contrary proved,

First, Very prejudicial to his Majesty in his Revenue of Customs.

Secondly, To all or most of the Land-Owners in *England*.

Thirdly, To the Navigation and Trade of the Kingdoms.

1. To his Majesty : for, before this Act passed, there were so many great Cattle and Sheep, Imported from *Ireland*, as (Computing the Custom paid for them and for the other Commodities exported out of *England* into *Ireland* in lieu of them) amounted yearly to 80000 *l.* besides the Customs of all *Norway*, *Spanish*, and *Westphalia* Hams ; which sum the King loseth every year, and the Kingdom, to their Vast prejudice, have lost that Trade.

2. To Land-Owners this prohibition must necessarily be a great prejudice, If it be considered,

1. That the Breeding-Lands of *England* are not able to raise a sufficient Stock for the feeding, six months feeding being as much as four years Breeding.

2. That by reason of the scarcity of such Stock, the Breeders Impose a greater price on Lean Cattle then they will yeild when fatted, whereby Feeding-Land becomes worth little or nothing.

3. That for want of *Irish* Cattle, the Victualling both for Home-Consumption, and Foreign Trade, and Naval Provisions, (most of it) is transferred from *England* into *Ireland* : which is a great prejudice to the Consumption in *England* ; So that Lean Cattle, though they be dearer, because of the scarcity of them, yet fatted Cattel are cheaper for want of the Consumption we formerly had. The Consequence whereof is, That the Ends of the prohibition are not answered, Rents of Lands are

not

not Raised ; but on the Contrary, Feeding-Lands must and do fall for want of a Cheap Stock ; and our former Consumption, and Breeding-Lands, through the decay of Trade, which this prohibition hath occasioned.

3ly, This Prohibition is prejudicial to Trade and Navigation.

1. Because those Foreigners, who formerly Victualled here, do Victual all themselves in *Ireland*.

2. And they have their Provisions for the fourth part of what we pay for ours ; whereby they have a great advantage in point of Trade, and can Sayl Cheaper than we : which forceth the *English* to Victual there also.

3. All *Irish* Cattle which formerly came unto *England*, and for which they carryed out no Money, but took of our Manufactures in return, are carryed to other places beyond Seas, and from thence fetch the Commodities wherewith we before the prohibition supplied them. So that the Traders in *Lancashire*, *Cheshire*, and other Northern parts, where the Breeding-Lands lie, their Loss is greater for want of a Consumption of the Manufactures of those Countries which formerly were sent into *Ireland*, than the Advantage they receive by advancing the price of Lean-cattel doth amount unto.

4. It hath enforced the Irish for to lessen their Heards of Cattel, and increase their breed of Sheep, having gotten of our largest and best Breeders : So that they have now Vast Flocks, and prodigious quantities of Wooll, besides Hides and Tallow : which proves mischeivous to *England* three wayes.

1. By their sending Wooll beyond Seas unmanufactured ; which notwithstanding the Prohibition, every day they do, which being manufactured by Foreigners, they grow rich thereby, whilst our poor in *England* starve for want of the work they had when they were Employed in manufacturing for a Foreign Consumption.

2. By sending their Hides, Tallow, and Wooll in great quantities into *England* : which, for want of a Consumption here, bring down the price of our own growth.

3. By setting up the Woollen Manufacturies in *Ireland*, where having the Wooll, Land, and all Provisions cheaper than in *England*, they must necessarily have their Workmen cheaper ; and if so, they will be able to make enough, not only for their own use, but, to supply Foreigners also with that which *England* used to supply them with heretofore ; which, in a short time, if not prevented, will undermine the Staple and most Advantageous Trade of this Kingdom. It is the Interest of

England, being the Seat of Government, to maintain a preeminence in the Trade, and to see that the Manufacturies thereof be preserved intire within it self: Otherwise by how much the more *Ireland* is Improved, by so much the more *England* will be Impaired therein. For they, working cheaper, lying nearer Foreign Markets, and their freight being less, do what we can, will undersell us, where ever they come; whereby our Manufacturies will be destroyed, and Manufacturers, with their Families, be Ruined.

It is observable, 1. That the Trade with *Ireland* kept three or four hundred ships in full imploy; which were paid by the *Irish* Freighters there and occasioned the breeding many Seamen yearly; but now all those ships are laid aside, the breed of Seamen neglected, and that Trade managed in Foreign Bottomes.

2. That the Cattel and Sheep formerly imported, by Computation amounted unto a Million of Money *per Annum*.

3. That they carryed no Money out of *England*; but the effect of their Cattel was all laid out in our Manufacturies, or other Commodities Imported into *England*, and from thence sent to *Ireland*: and the King had a Custom paid both upon the Importation and Exportation, and also for every head of Cattle brought over.

The *Irish* being now Prohibited this Trade, are necessitated to send all their Victuals to Forreign parts, where they sell them for more than we paid for them, and buy what ever they want Cheaper than they had them from us; by which means they will be concerned to take no Commodities from *England*.

Nor can they Trade with us, if they would, because they have no way to pay for what they buy, unless they bring over Money *in Specie*, to the mischeife of that Kingdom; or by Bills of Exchange, which cannot be had under 15 or 16 *per Cent*. which is double the profit gotten by those that Trade with them. That Exchange of monies thence is very high, Gentlemen whose Estates are Returned over, do find, and by reason thereof are forced to retrench a sixth part of their Expences here: which is a further lessening to the Consumption of the Manufacturies & Provisions of this Kingdom, and of Trade with them: which is further dangerous; for, if we send Goods, they having a new Trade to Forreign parts, we must send our Stocks thither; So that if any loss happen, it is the *English* that undergoe it.

Ireland being peopled from *England* was at first a hurt to us, because it lessened the Consumption of our Provisions here. But to prohibit them Trade with us is ten times worse: for, that not only takes off the Consumption

sumption they used to make of our Manufactures, but destroyes all those Families in *England* that used to be Employed for their supply : So that they can neither spend of the Provisions nor Manufacturies of this Kingdom as formerly they did.

And besides these Handicraft-men, there are many Eminent Trades in *London*, as Mercers, Milliners, Haberdashers, &c, suffer greatly : for, when Fashions were out here, they used to send them into *Ireland* in return for their Cattle, and they went off as new there : for want of which utterance, many of those Tradesmen, by reason of the often changing of Fashions amongst us, have been, and are daily undone.

There is one other high Inconveniency like to fall upon *England* by this Prohibition, which hath put *Ireland* upon Industry : For some part of *Ireland* lying nearer to *France*, *Italy*, and *Spain* than *England* doth ; and so the *Irish* having Salt from *France*, and Cask, and Mens Labour, and all Tackle for Fishing being cheaper there than we have here, do set up the Fishing Trade there, from whence they need but one Wind to carry them to their Markets ; and they catch the Fish six weeks before they come into *England*. If so, then what hinders but that they may cure them, and supply Foreign Markets sooner and cheaper than we can ? which in time will destroy the Fisheries of this Kingdom.

Not but that *Ireland* should have its proper Advantages, and may, if they please ; there being many additional Manufactures that both they and we want, to which the nature of that Soyl, and the inclination of the People, gives encouragement ; particularly that of Linnen, the greatest part of the Countrey being Turf-Land, and naturally proper for Hemp and Flax ; and being employed to that use, (with due regulations) those Commodities may be had cheaper there, and from thence, than from any other part of the World ; which would be a great encouragement to the setting up of the Manufactures thereof. It must necessarily be cheaper, because Land is far cheaper there, than in those Parts from whence we have our Hemp and Flax : and what we fetch, comes charged with great Freight and Customs : Which might be saved if the Commodity were fetched from *Ireland*. What then would there be wanting, but a method to manufacture this Commodity cheaper ? Which done, that place may supply, not only *England*, but all *Europe* with Linnen-Cloth, at easier rates than now they pay for the same. And if so, what hinders but that they may ingross the whole Linnen-Trade, and quickly grow rich ? And that they may manufacture cheaper there, consider, that in this part of the World there cannot be found a place where people may live cheaper, have Lands at easier Rates than

in *Ireland*; so then consequently, no place in the World where people work for less than there. If then the Commodity to be wrought, and the working of that Commodity be cheaper in *Ireland* than in any other Part, the Manufacturies, when wrought, may be sold from thence cheaper than from any other part; and this would bring Trade thither, take away no more of the Stock of this Nation, than is absolutely necessary for the supply of our Necessities. And it would be a great advantage to the Kingdom to be furnished with that within our selves which we necessarily want, and are enforced to depend upon Foreigners for.

In short, the Prohibition of *Irish* Cattel, puts them on a necessity, (for something they must do with their Cattel, and the product of their Lands, or be utterly destroyed) that necessity forceth them to Industry; which Industry, if not determined with us, but continued or encouraged with Foreigners, the more industrious they are, the more pernicious it will be to *England* in all its concerns. For, if the *Irish*, by reason of their Religion, and the sense of our conquering them, have (as some affirm, and I and all English-men have good reason to believe) a natural antipathy against us English-men, and as natural an Affection and Sympathy to and with Foreigners, who are of their own Perswasion and Religion; And if Nations grow Intimate, espouse Interest, and mix by Trade and Commerce, it is humbly submitted, whether for the security of *England*, both in its Government and Trade, it be not advicable to annex *Ireland* as a Province to *England*, as our Islands abroad are annexed, whereby his Majesties Revenue of Customs would be advanced at least 80000 *l. per annum*, which would help to pay the Publick Debts, and do a publick good to the Nation?

Concerning the Importation of *Westphalia*-Hams, I have onely this to say, That though Prohibited, yet they are Imported, the King loseth the Custom of them which formerly he had, the Merchants buy them far cheaper beyond Seas than ever they did; in *England* the Subjects pay twice as much as they might have bought them for before the Prohibition; and not any good is done to the Kingdom thereby.

V I.

THe Sixth thing proposed, is, the Prohibition of *Brandy, Mum, Coffee, Chocoletta* and *Tea*, and the suppressing *Coffe-Houses*.

These greatly hinder the Consumption of *Barley, Malt* and *Wheat*, the Product of our Land, and thereby bring down the prices of these Grains, consequently the Rents of Land; to the ruine of Tenants, who cannot sell their Corn, when they have it; and of Landlords, whose Rents Tenants are not able to pay, because they have no vent for the Product of their Farms.

There is (as I am (upon strict Enquiry of the most knowing persons) informed) so vast a quantity of *Brandy, Mum, Coffee, Tea* and *Spanish Chocoletta*, every year imported into *England*, and consumed here, that reckoning the *Brandy* to be sold at two pence the Quartern, and no more (whereas most of it by retail is sold for three pence) the *Mum* at six pence a Quart, and the *Coffee, Tea, Chocoletta*, at the rates they are usually sold for, yet is there expended by the Subjects yearly in these drinks above 400000 *l*.

If these Liquors were prohibited, then would there be made in *England*, with our *Wheat*, or *Malt*, such quantities of *Brandy*, or a Spirit equal to it, and of *Mum* also, as would, in all probability, occasion the Consumption of at least two or three hundred thousand Quarters of *Wheat* and *Malt* every year more than now is consumed; and that would raise the price of the Commodity, and thereby keep up the Rent of Lands, which every year falls for want of a Consumption of the Product thereof: And the Prohibition of *Brandy* would be otherwise advantageous to the Kingdom, and prevent the destruction of His Majesties Subjects; many of whom have been kill'd by drinking thereof, it not agreeing with their Constitutions. How many instances have we had yearly of mens dying suddenly, after drinking of *Brandy*! How many after over-drinking themselves with this Liquour, have lain languishing till they have dyed thereof! Before *Brandy* (which is now become common, and sold in every little Alehouse) came over into *England* in such quantities as now it doth, we drank good Strong Beer and Ale; and all laborious people (which are the far greatest part of the Kingdom) their bodies requiring, after hard labour, some strong drink to refresh them, did therefore every morning and evening use to drink

drink a pot of Ale, or a flagon of strong Beer: which greatly promoted the Consumption of our own Grain, and did them no great prejudice; it hindred not their work, neither did it take away their senses, nor cost them much money. But now this sort of people, since Brandy is become so common, and sold in every little house (a small quantity costing them three pence) do sometimes spend their days wages in this sort of Liquor, before they get home in an evening, and thereby impoverish their Families; and not only so, but frequently by their drinking to excess, they are bereft of their senses for two or three days together, so that they cannot work.

In short, Brandy burns the hearts of His Majesties Subjects out; in few years it hath been the destruction and death of some thousands, who if they had kept to Beer and Ale, might have received better refreshment therefrom, and now been living to have served the King and their Countrey, and might have help'd to consume the Manufactures and Provisions of the Kingdom. And if so, then what reason can any man give for the Importation thereof? For my own part I declare, I know of none, unless it be, because it pays a great Custom or Excise to the King. And as to that, I answer and affirm, That if Brandy be prohibited, the Excise of the Beer and Ale that would be then consumed, more than is now, will more than answer the duty of Brandy that the King shall lose by such Prohibition as is desired (admitting that all the Brandy imported paid the duty imposed, when as not one half thereof is paid for, the same being stolen; inasmuch, that when the duty to the King was four shillings per Gallon, Brandy was sold for three shillings, which was twelve pence less than the Kings Duty.) But admitting that if Brandy should be prohibited, the additional Excise of Ale and Beer would not answer the Kings loss he shall sustain thereby; and taking it for granted, that our English Constitutions are now so accustomed to Brandy, that it is become absolutely necessary for them to use the same, or some Liquor like it: If it be so, then from our Malt and Wheat may be extracted a Spirit equally as good, if not for our Constitutions much better than Brandy: And then laying a small duty (as a penny a Gallon) upon *low Wines*, will more than answer what the additional Excise shall fall short of to the King, yea, and very much exceed what he shall lose by the Prohibition desired. And in as much as nothing is so much wanting in England as people; Therefore all means possible, in point of Prudence and Policy, ought to be used to preserve the lives and healths of those we have: But the Importing of Brandy hath destroyed many, is like to destroy more; ergo, it ought to

to be prohibited. And the rather, in regard that *Brandy* comes from *France*; and whatever we import from *France*, ready money is paid for the same, or for the greatest part thereof: For although we impose but between Four and Ten pound *per cent.* upon any of the Manufacturies or Commodities of the growth of *France*, except the duty upon Wine and Brandy; yet the French King either prohibits the Importation of the Manufactures of *England* into his Dominions, or the selling them there, unless they be sealed, for which Seal, a great duty is paid, or else he burns them if they are imported, and sold without such Seal (as he did the Silk Stockings) or imposeth upon the Importation thereof, a duty of 30, 40, or 50 *l. per cent.* which is double as much as was imposed, till within these few years last past; and is in effect a Prohibition: For, when we do Transport any thing thither of our Growth or Manufacturies, the French, by reason of the high duty imposed upon them, undersell us; whereby we are necessitated to keep our goods till spoiled, or bring them back. And if so, then plain it is, that whatsoever we have from *France*, ready money goes for the same: So that by a moderate computation, they have at least 400000 *l. per annu.* in money from us; which is a vast prejudice to *England*, and a great enriching to *France*, who impose upon us, not only vast proportions of their *Brandy* and Wines, but also of their Silks, Stuffs, Ribbons, Laces, Points, and divers other things, whereby our Manufacturers in *England* are ruined, and the Treasure of the Nation exhausted. I know it will be said, that we lay far greater Impositions upon their Wines and Brandy, than they do upon any of our Manufactures, and it is true, that we do so. But consider, that whatever duty we lay upon Wines, is laid upon the King of *England's* own Subjects, they pay it, and such duty doth not hinder the Importation thereof; for more comes in now than ever there did, when the duty was not half so high, and the *French* force the *English* to pay more for their Wines than ever they paid before. But the Impositions laid by the King of *France* upon our Manufactures, have stop't us from sending any thing considerable thither, whereas before such duties imposed, we sent great quantities: So that in a few years, if not prevented, the very Commerce with *France* is like to destroy *England*. As for *Brunswick Mum*, I am sure we brew as strong in *England* as they do there, and yet afford to sell it for half the price they sell theirs for; therefore there is no necessity of the Importation thereof, to supply any defect we have here, consequently, 'tis not fit to be encouraged, because it hinders the Consumption of the Grain of this Kingdom.

And

And for *Coffee, Tea and Chocoletta*, I know no good they do; only the places where they are sold are convenient for persons to meet in, sit half a day, and discourse with all Companies that come in, of State-matters, talking of news, and broaching of lyes, arraigning the judgements and discretions of their Governors, censuring all their Councils, and insinuating into the people a prejudice against them; extolling and magnifying their own parts, knowledge and wisdom, and decrying that of their Rulers; which, if suffered too long, may prove pernicious and destructive. But say there were nothing of this in the case, yet have these *Coffee Houses* done great mischiefs to the Nation, undone many of the Kings Subjects; for they being very great Enemies to Diligence and Industry, have been the ruine of many serious and hopeful young Gentlemen and Tradesmen, who before they frequented these places, were diligent Students or Shopkeepers, extraordinary husbands of their time, as well as money: but since these Houses have been set up, under pretence of good husbandry, to avoid spending above one peny or two pence at a time, have got to these *Coffee Houses*; where meeting Friends, they have sate talking three or four hours, after which a fresh acquaintance appearing (and so one after another all day long) hath begotten fresh discourse; So that frequently they have staid five or six hours together in one of them: All which time their Studies or Shops have been neglected, their Business left undone, their Servants been trusted, and an opportunity given them thereby to be idle and deceitful; the taking of money in many of these mens shops hath been hindred, and their Customers gone away displeased: How many by these means have received great losses and disadvantages in their Trade! and by accustoming themselves to these houses, have made it so habitual to them, that they cannot forbear them, though, together with their Families, they are ruined thereby. These Houses being very many of them professed Bawdy Houses, more expensive than other houses, are become scandalous for a man to be seen in them; which Gentlemen not knowing, do frequently fall into them by chance, and so their Reputation is drawn into question thereby.

VII.

THe Seventh Proposal, That the multitude of *Stage-Coaches* and *Caravans*, now travelling upon the Roads, may all, or most of them, be suppressed; especially these within 40, 50, or 60 Miles of *London*, where they are no way necessary. And that a due Regulation be made of such as shall be thought fit to be continued.

These *Coaches* and *Caravans* are one of the greatest mischiefs that hath hapned of late years to the Kingdom, mischievous to the Publick, destructive to Trade, and prejudicial to Lands.

First; By destroying the Breed of good Horses, the Strength of the Nation, and making Men careless of attaining to good Horsemanship, a thing so useful and commendable in a Gentleman.

Secondly; By hindring the Breed of Watermen, who are the Nursery for Seamen, and they the Bulwark of the Kingdom.

Thirdly; By lessening of his Majesties Revenues.

For the first of these; *Stage-Coaches* prevent the breed of good Horses, destroy those that are bred, and effeminate his Majesties Subjects, who having used themselves to travel in them, have neither attained skill themselves, nor bred up their Children to good Horsemanship, whereby they are rendred incapable of serving their Countrey on Horseback, if occasion should require and call for the same; for, hereby they become weary and listless when they ride a few miles, and unwilling to get on Horseback; not able to endure Frost, Snow, or Rain, or to lodg in the Fields; and what reason, save only their using themselves so tenderly, and their riding in these *Stage-Coaches*, can be given for this their inability?

What encouragement hath any Man to breed Horses whilst these Coaches are continued? There is such a lazy habit of body upon Men, that they, to indulge themselves, save their fine Cloaths, and keep themselves clean and dry, will ride lolling in one of them, and endure all the Inconveniences of that manner of travelling rather than ride on Horseback: So that if any Man should continue his Breed, he must be one that is a great lover of them, and resolve to keep and please his own fancy with them; otherwise most certainly he (as most Breeders already have done) will give over his breeding.

There is not the fourth part of Saddle-Horses, either bred or kept

now in *England*, that was before these Coaches were set up, and would be again if they were suppressed. Nor is there any occasion for breeding or keeping such Horses, whilst the Coaches are continued.

For, will any Man keep a Horse for himself, and another for his Man, all the year, for to ride one or two Journeys, that at pleasure, when he hath occasion, can slip to any place where his business lies, for two, three, or four shillings, if within twenty miles of *London*, and so proportionably into any part of *England*. No, there is no Man, unless some Noble Soul, that scorns and abhors being confined to so ignoble, base, and a sordid way of travelling, as these Coaches oblige him unto, and who prefers a publick Good before his own ease and advantage, that will breed or keep such Horses. Neither are there near so many Coach-Horses either bred or kept in *England* now, as there were Saddle-Horses formerly, there being no occasion for them, the Kingdom being supplied with a far less number. For, formerly, every Man that had occasion to travel many Journeys yearly, or to ride up and down, kept Horses for himself and Servants, and seldom rid without one or two Men; But now since every Man can have a passage into every place he is to travel unto, or to some place within a few miles of that part he designs to go unto, They have left keeping of Horses, and travel without Servants; And *York*, *Chester*, and *Exeter* Stage-Coaches, each of them with forty Horses a piece, carry eighteen Passengers a week from *London* to either of these places; and in like manner as many in return from these places to *London*; which comes in the whole to 1872 in the year. Now take it for granted, That all that are carried from *London* to those places, are the same that are brought back, yet are there 936 Passengers carried by forty Horses; whereas were it not for these Coaches, at least 500 Horses would be required to perform this Work. Take the short Stages within twenty or thirty miles of *London*, each Coach with four Horses carries six Passengers a day, which are 36 in a week, 1872 a year; If these Coaches were suppressed, can any Man imagine these 1872 Passengers and their Servants could be carried by four Horses? Then reckon your Coaches within ten miles of *London*, that go backward and forward every day, and they carry double the number every year; and so proportionably your shorter Stages within three, four, or five miles of *London*.

There are Stage-Coaches that go to almost every Town within 20 or 25 miles of *London*, wherein Passengers are carried at so low Rates, that most persons in and about *London*, and in *Middlesex*, *Essex*, *Kent*, and *Surrey*, Gentlemen, Merchants, and other Traders that have occasion

sion to ride do make use of ; some to keep Fairs and Markets ; others to visit Friends, and to, and from their Countrey-houses, or about other business, who before these Coaches did set up, kept a Horse or two of their own, but now have given over keeping the same ; so that by computation there are not so many by ten thousand Horses kept now in these Parts, as there were before Stage-Coaches set up : By which means breeding of good Pad-Nags is discouraged, and Coach-Horses that are bred, by cruelty and ill usage of Stagers are destroyed.

2ly, Those Coaches hinder the breeding of Water-men, and much discourage those that are bred ; for there being Stage-Coaches set up unto every little Town upon the River of *Thames*, on both sides the Water, from *London* as high as *Windsor* and *Maidenhead*, &c. And so from *London-Bridge* to and below *Graves-end*, and also to every little Town within a mile or two of the Water-side. These are they who carry all the Letters, little Bundles, and Passengers, which before they set up, were carried by Water, and kept Water-men in a full Employ, and occasioned their increase, (whereof there never was more need than now) ; And yet by these Coaches, they of all others are most discouraged and dejected, especially our Western and below-Bridge Water-men ; they having little or nothing to do, sometimes not a Fare in a week ; so that they dare not take Apprentices, the Work they have not answering the charge they are at in keeping themselves and Families. The consequence whereof is like to prove sad in a short time, unless speedily prevented, especially if these Wars continue, and we happen to lose so many yearly of those that are bred, as of late years we have done. But if these Coaches were down, Water-men as formerly would have Work, and be encouraged to take Apprentices, whereby their number would every year greatly encrease.

3ly, It prejudiceth his Majesty in his Revenue of Excise : For now four or five travel in a Coach together, and twenty or thirty in a Caravan, Gentlemen and Ladies, without any Servants, consume little Drink on the Road, yet pay as much at every Inn, as if their Servants were with them, which is the Tapsters gain, and his Majesties loss : But if Travellers would, as formerly they did, Travel on Horseback, then no Persons of Quality would ride without their Servants : And it is they that occasion the Consumption of Beer and Ale on the Roads, and so would advance his Majesties Revenue. I know it will be Objected, There are as many People now as will be when Coaches are down, and they drink where ever they are ; Therefore no matter whether they drink at Home or on the Road, since the Consumption will

be the same ; how can the Kings Revenue then be advanced by Servants travelling with their Masters or Mistresses, more than it is already ? The answer is plain ; at home they drink small or strong drink brewed by their Masters that pay no Excise , but whatever they drink at Inns pays the Kings duties : And all Inn-keepers do declare, that they sell not half the drink, nor pay the King $\frac{1}{2}$ the Excise they did before these coaches set up.

2ly. These Coaches and Caravans are destructive to the Trade and Manufactories of the Kingdom, have impoverished and ruined many thousands of Families, whose subsistence depended upon the Manufacturing of Wool and Leather, two of the Staple-Commodities of the Kingdom : For, before these Coaches were set up, Travellers rode on Horseback, and men had Boots, Spurs, Saddles, Bridles, Saddle-clothes, and good riding Suits, Coats and Cloaks, Stockings and Hats ; whereby the Wool and Leather of the Kingdom was consumed, and the poor people set at work by Carding, Combing, Spinning, Knitting, Weaving, Fulling : And your *Cloth-Workers, Drapers, Taylors, Saddlers, Tanners, Curriers, Shoemakers, Spurriers, Lorryners, Felt-makers*, had a good employ, were full of work, got money, lived handsomely, and help'd with their Families to Consume the Provisions and Manufactures of the Kingdoms : But by means of these Coaches, these Trades, besides many others depending upon them, are become almost useless ; and they, with their Families, reduced to great necessity ; inasmuch, that many thousands of them are cast upon the Parishes wherein they dwell, for a Maintenance. Besides, it is a great hurt to the *Girdlers, Sword-Cutlers, Gunsmiths and Trunk-makers* ; most Gentlemen, before they travelled in their Coaches, used to ride with Swords, Belts, Pistols, Holsters, Portmantues and Hat-cases, which in these Coaches they have little or no occasion for : For, when they rode on Horseback, they rode in one Suit, carried another to wear when they came to their journeys end, or lay by the way : But in Coaches, a Silk-Suit, and an Indian-Gown, with a Sash, Silk-Stockings, Beaver-Hats men ride in, and carry no other with them, because they escape the wet and dirt, which on Horse-back they cannot avoid ; whereas in two or three journeys on Horseback, these cloths and hats were wont to be spoiled : Which done, they were forced to have new very often ; and that increased the Consumption of the Manufactures, and the employment of the Manufacturers, which travelling in Coaches doth no way do. And if they were women, that travelled, they used to have Safeguards, and Hoods, Side-saddles and Pillions, with Strappins, Saddle or Pillion-cloths, which (for the most part) were either laced or imbroydered ; to the making

making of which there went many several Trades, seeing there is not one Side-Saddle with the furniture made, but before it be furnished, there are at least thirty several Trades have a share in the making thereof, most of which are either destroyed, or greatly prejudiced by the Abatement of their Trade: Which being bred unto, and having served seven years Apprentiship to learn, they know not what other course to take for a Livelyhood. And besides all these Inferior Handy-Craftsmen, there are the *Mercers, Silkmen, Lace-Men, Milliners, Linnen and Woollen Drapers, Haberdashers*, and divers other Eminent Trades, that receive great prejudice by this way of Travelling: For the *Mercers* sold Silk and Stuff in great quantities for Safeguards, Hoods, and Riding Clothes for women; by which means the *Silk-Twisters, Winders, Throseters, Weavers* and *Dyers*, had a fuller Employment, the *Silk-men* sold more *Lace* and *Imbroider*y, which kept the *Silver-Wyre-Drawers, Lace-makers* and *Imbroyderers*. And at least ten Trades more were employed: The *Linnen-Draper* sold more *Linnen*, not only to *Sadlers* to make up *Sadles*, but to Travellers for their own use, nothing wearing out *Linnen* more than riding. *Woollen-Drapers* sold more Cloth than now; *Sadlers* used before these Coaches were set up, to buy 3. or 400. l. worth of Cloth apiece in a year, nay some Five hundred and a Thousand pounds worth, which they cut out into *Saddles* and *Pillion-Cloths*; though now there is no *Sadler* can dispose of One hundred pounds worth of Cloth in a year in his Trade. The *Milliners* and *Haberdashers*, they also sold more *Ribbons, Gloves, Hoods, Scarfs*, and other things belonging to their Trade; the dust, dirt and rain, and riding on Horse-back, spoiling and wearing them out, much more than travelling in a Coach: And on Horseback these things were apter to be lost than in a Coach.

Trade is a great Myserie, and one Trade depends upon another: Were it not too tedious, I could shew you how many several Trades there are that go to the making of every one of the things aforementioned, and demonstrate, that there is scarcely a Trade in *England*, but what is one way or other concerned and prejudiced by these Stage-Coaches, especially the Countrey-Trade all over *England*: For, passage to *London* being so easie, Gentlemen come to *London* oftner than they need, and their Ladies either with them, or having the conveniencies of these Coaches, quickly follow them. And when they are there, they must be in the Mode, have all the new Fashions, buy all their Cloaths there, and go to Plays, Balls and Treats, where they get such a habit of Jollity, and a love to Gayety and Pleasure, that nothing afterwards.

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in the Countrey will serve them, if ever they should fix their minds to live there again : But they must have all from *London*, whatever it costs.

And there is one grand mischief happens to the Countrey thereby ; for Gentlemen drain the Countrey of all the money they can get, bring it to *London*, and spend it there : Whereas if they stayed at home, bought their Cloaths and other Commodities, of their Neighbours, money would be kept circulating amongst them ; and Chapmen that have served Apprenticeships, and set up near them, would have a good Trade, pay their Rents, and live handsomely, the Trade betwixt them and the City of *London* would be renewed, Countrey Ladies would be as well pleased (provided they be kept from *London*) as if they had all the rich Clothes, Modes and Fashions, vainly and extravagantly invented and worn in the City, as soon as they have them there ; and Gentlemen would not only save the money they spend in Journeys to buy Cloaths, but have as good as need to be worn in the Countrey, at easier rates than they must pay at *London*, if they buy when the Fashion comes first up.

3ly. These Coaches and Caravans, hinders the Consumption of all sort of Provisions for Man and Beast, thereby bringing down the Rents of Lands. For instance, a Coach with four Horses carries six Passengers, a Caravan with four or five Horses, carries twenty or five and twenty : These, when they come to their Inn, club together for a Dish or two of Meat, and having no Servants with them, spend not above twelve pence, or sixteen pence apiece at a place ; yet perhaps foul four, five or six pair of sheets. Horses they have none, but what draw them ; and for those, the Coach-men agree with the Innkeeper before hand, to have their Hay and Oats at so low a rate, that he loseth by them, and is forced to beat down the price of them in the Market, yet must let the Coachman have them for what he pleaseth ; otherwise he carries his Passengers to other Inns : by which means the Inholders get little or nothing, cannot pay their Rent, nor hold their Inns, without great Abatements ; Two third parts of what they formerly paid, is in some places abated. Upon such accounts as these, Innholders where these Coaches do come, are undone : And if so, since most Travellers travel in Coaches, what must become of all the rest of the Inns on the Roads where these Coaches stay not ? Believe it, they are a considerable number, take all the grand Roads in *England*, as, *York*, *Exeter*, *Chester*, &c. There are about 500 Inns on each Road, and these Coaches do not call at fifteen or sixteen of them ; then what can follow, but that the rest be undone, and their Landlords lose their Rents ?

But

But were these Coaches and Caravans down, and travelling on Horseback again come into fashion, first, every Passenger that now travels in Coach, would have one Horse at least; many of them, one, two or three Servants with them, who now ride sneaking without any Attendants at all; whereby, in all probability, according to moderate Computation, there would be at least forty or fifty horses upon the Road, instead of nine or ten that draw the Coach and Caravan.

2ly. These Travellers would disperse themselves into the several Inns upon the Road, each man where he could find the best Entertainment; whereby Trade would be diffused, Innholders be enabled to pay their Rents, and encouraged to provide accommodations fit for the reception of Gentlemen.

3. Most Horses go to grass in the Summer time, which would raise the Rents of Pasture-Lands about Cities and Corporations, and other Towns upon the Roads, above what formerly they were; which of late years, by means of those Coaches, have fallen half in half, even in *Middlesex*, and other places adjoining to *London* it self: And no other reason for it can be given but this, That Citizens and Gentlemen about the City, do not keep Horses as formerly they did: Neither doth there now come a sixth part of the Horses to *London* that used to do; but if Stage Coaches be suppress'd, there will be a necessity for men to apply themselves to the breeding, keeping and using Horses as formerly they did; and it will necessarily occasion the Consumption of five times the quantity of Hay, Straw and Horse-Corn that now is consumed; whereby Farmers will have a vent for their Commodities, and be enabled to pay their Rents; for, not only will there then be four times the number of Horses travelling upon the Roads as there are now, but in the City of *London*, and all the great Towns in *England*, there would be great numbers of good Horses kept by Gentlemen, Merchants and Tradesmen for their own uses; and by others also, to let out to hire to such as shall have occasion to ride, and keep not Horses of their own.

It is very observable, that before these Coaches were set up, what with the Horses kept by Merchants, and other Tradesmen, and Gentlemen in or near *London*, and the Travellers Horses that came to *London*, That City spent all the Hay, Straw, Beans, Pease, and Oats, that could be spared within twenty or thirty miles thereof; And for a further supply, had vast quantities from *Henty*, and other Western parts, and from below *Graves-end* by Water; besides many Ships Lading of Beans from *Hull*, and of Oats from *Lynn* and *Boston*; and then Oats, and

and Hay, and other Horse-Meat, would bear a good price in that Market, which was the Standard for all the Markets in *England*; But now, since these Coaches set up, especially in such multitudes, and those so nigh *London*; *London* cannot consume what grows within twenty miles of it. But if they were down, the Consumption in *London* would quickly be as great as ever, and that would raise the price of the Commodities, advance the price of Lands, and cause Rents to be well paid again; Not only would every Traveller that now rides in a Coach, travel on Horseback, if Coaches were down, and some of them with two or three Servants, and so occasion a greater Consumption of the Provisions for Cattel: But further every of these several Travellers, who before clubbed together for a Dish or two of Meat, would have one, two, or three Dishes of Meat for himself and his Servants; which would occasion the Consumption of six times as much Beef, Veal, Mutton, Lamb, and all sorts of Fish, Fowl, Poultry, and other Provisions, as is now consumed on the Roads: And such Consumption would raise the price of Lands, and cause better payment of Rents; especially if it be considered, That not only will the Consumption be increased by those that travel the Roads; but ten-times more would be spent by those who would be employed in the making those things that Travellers must have when they ride; who, if they have work, and can earn Money, will Eat and Drink of the best, as formerly they did, when several Handicraft Tradesmen in *London* kept 20, 30, or 40 Journeymen at work, spent a quarter of Beef, and a Carcass of Mutton in a week in their Houses; who since these Coaches set up, have fallen to a couple of Apprentices; and though as eminent of their Trade as any about *London*, yet can hardly earn Bread to put into their heads. If it be so then, that *Running Stage-Coaches* and *Caravans* are so injurious to the Publick, destructive to Trade, and the occasion of the fall of Rents, it would be worth time to consider what is in them worthy of their being countenanced and desired; And whether the Inconveniencies be not much greater than the Conveniencies men receive by them. If this way of travelling were the way that of all wayes appeared most beneficial, least expensive, conducing to Health, advantageous to men in their business, absolutely necessary to some, useful to others, and imposed upon none; There were some reason for mens being in love with them; but if the contrary be apparent, then what madness possesseth men to court their Inconveniencies and Mischiefs? Let us examine these things.

Men receive not the greatest benefit by travelling in these Coaches: For can that way be beneficial to any that hinders and destroyes Trade,
prevents

prevents the Consumption of the Provisions and Manufactures of the Kingdom, and thereby lowers the Rents of Landlords?

For First, Can a Gentleman receive benefit or advantage by saving 5 *l. per Ann.* in a journey, when by his manner of travelling he lowers his own Rents three times as much in a year as he saves by his Journeys, by countenancing that kind of conveyance that hinders the Consumption of the products of his own Estate, and thereby makes his Tenants unable to pay their Rents?

2ly, Is it to be believed, That a Tradesman arrives at any profit by these Coaches, though he should save a little Money when he rides in them, that he must necessarily expend if he travels on Horseback? No, for this manner of travelling hinders the Sale of those Commodities they deal in; of which much more would be consumed than is, if such Coaches were down, and by the Sale whereof they would get much more than they save by confining themselves to travelling as aforesaid; so that plainly it is their interest to promote that way of travelling, that tends to the greatest Consumption of the Manufacturies or Commodities wherein they deal.

3ly, The Husbandmen, who live by the sweat of their Brows, in manuring the Estates of the Gentry, they are undone by this easie carriage; for it hinders their selling their Corn, Hay, and Straw, and other the products of their Farms, and brings down the price of what they sell, thereby rendring them unable to pay their Rents, or to hold their Farms without considerable abatements: which if not given them, their Lands are thrown up into the Landlords hands, and little or no benefit made by them.

4ly, The Grasiars, they complain for want of a Vent for their Cattel, which they had before these Coaches were erected; Not that I do imagine Coaches to be the only reason of the want of that Consumption, though it be evident they go far in the promoting that mischief; for the want of People in *England*, the loss of many thousands from amongst us of late years, and the leaving of eating off Suppers by those that are left alive, go a great way therein. But these two may be easily remedied; The former by the *General Act of Naturalization*, and *Liberty of Conscience*, proposed before, which would bring all Foreigners in amongst us; The latter, by mens spending less in Taverns, Playes, and Balls, and keeping up in lieu thereof, the ancient laudable Customs of *England*, of good House-keeping, and thereby relieving the Poor. Half the Money that Gentlemen idly spend in Taverns upon *French Wines*, for which the Coin of the Kingdom is exhausted, or

upon Playes, Balls, treating Mistresses, fine Clothes, Toyes from France, or other Foreign parts, would defray the charges of having good Suppers every night; whereby the product of our own Lands would be consumed, and that would raise Rents: Nay, I am verily perswaded, if it were duly considered, and that all men, as formerly, would fall to eating of Suppers, at least to dressing of them; and when dress'd, if they eat not themselves, would give them to the Poor, the increase of the Consumption would raise the Rents of Lands, as much above what now they do go at (at least in most places of England) as would defray the charges of those Suppers; If so, would it not then be of great advantage to Men in their Estates, and to the Kingdom in general?

But to proceed; If the Gentlemen, the Tradesmen, the Husbandmen, the Grasier, be not benefited by this travelling, I am sure the last sort of Travellers; To wit,

The Poor, they cannot be profited thereby; For Waggon, or the Long Coaches first invented, and still in use, would be most for their interest to travel in, being far less expensive than the other; so that these Running Coaches are not most beneficial to every sort of Travellers.

Secondly, Men do not travel in these Coaches with less expence of Money or Time than on Horseback: For, on Horseback they may travel faster; and if they please (all things duly considered) with as little, if not less charges.

For instance, From London to Exeter, Chester, or York, you pay 40 shillings apiece in Summer time, 45 shillings in Winter for your Passage; and as much from those places back to London: besides, in the Journey they change Coachmen four times; and there are few Passengers but gives 12 pence to each Coachman at the end of his Stage, which comes to 8 shillings in the Journey backward and forward, and at least 3 shillings comes to each Passengers share to pay for the Coachmens Drink on the Road; so that in Summer time the Passage backward and forward to any of these places, costs 4*l.* 11*s.* in the Winter 5*l.* 1*s.* and this only for eight dayes riding in the Summer, and 12 in the Winter. Then when the Passengers come to London, they must have Lodgings, which perhaps may cost them five or six shillings a week, and that in fourteen dayes amounts unto 10 or 12*s.* which makes the 4*l.* 11*s.* either 5*l.* 1*s.* or 5*l.* 3*s.* or the 5*l.* 1*s.* 5*l.* 11*s.* or 5*l.* 13*s.* besides the inconveniency of having Meat from the Cooks, at double the price they might have it for in Inns. But if Stage-Coaches were down,

down, and men travelled again as formerly on Horseback, then when they came into their Inns they would pay nothing for Lodgings; And as there would excellent Horses be bred and kept by Gentlemen for their own use, so would there be by others that would keep them on purpose to Lett; which would, as formerly, be let at 10 or 12 *s.* per week, and in many places for 6, 8, or 9 *s.* per week: but admitting the lowest price to be 12 *s.* if a Man comes from *York*, *Exeter*, or *Chester*, to *London*, be five dayes a coming, five dayes going, and stay twelve dayes in *London* to dispatch his business, (which is the most that Countrey Chapmen usually do stay) all this would be but three weeks; so that his Horse-hire would come but to 1 *l.* 16 *s.* his Horse-meat at 1 *s.* 2 *d.* a day, (one with another) which is the highest that can be reckoned upon, and will come but to 1 *l.* 5 *s.* in all 3 *l.* 1 *s.* so that there would be at least 40 or 50 *s.* saved of what Coach-hire and Lodgings will cost him; which would go a great way in paying for Riding-Clothes, Stockings, Hats, Boots, Spurs, and other Accoutrements for riding; and in my poor opinion, would be far better spent in the buying of these things, by the making whereof the poor would be set at work, and kept from being burthenfom to the Parish, than to give it to those Stage-Coachmen, to indulge that lazy, idle, habit of Body, that men, by constant riding in these Coaches, have brought upon themselves: Besides, if thus their Money were spent, they would save a great deal, which now (if Men of any Estates) they pay for relief of those poor, who, for want of the work they had before those Coaches were set up, and might have again if they were put down, are fallen upon the several Parishes wherein they live, for maintenance: which charge would be quickly taken off if they were restored to their work. Thus in proportion may a Man save from all longer or shorter Stages. For instance, from *Northampton* men pay for passage in Coach to *London* 16 *s.* and so much back; from *Bristol* 25 *s.* from *Bath* 20 *s.* from *Salisbury* 20 or 25 *s.* from *Redding* 7 *s.* the like sums back, and so in proportion for longer or shorter Stages. Judge then, whether men may not hire Horses cheaper than 5 *s.* a day; I am sure they may for half the money, especially if Coaches were down, that men might receive encouragement; for, then there would be, as formerly, in all great Cities and Towns of *England*, good and sufficient numbers of able Horses kept to Lett, and such a correspondency would be between all the places, that a Man in any Town shall have a Horse to ride to what place he pleaseth, and liberty to leave him when he comes to his Journeys end, without farther charge, till he have dispatched his business:

which done, he may at the same place hire one to carry him back and be gone, without waiting a week or ten dayes after his Affairs are ended, at vast charges, meerly for a passage in a Coach; as many of these Gentlemen are forced to do, who pretend it a point of good Husbandry to travel in them, which hazard nevertheless they run, and often find the smart of it: They never consider or account the charge thereof, if they did, they would easily perceive, that travelling in Coaches is not the way of travelling with least expence.

Thirdly, Travelling in these Coaches can neither prove advantageous to mens Health or Business: For, what advantage is it to Man's Health, to be called out of their Beds into these Coaches, an hour before day in the morning, to be hurried in them from place to place till one hour, two, or three within night; insomuch that after sitting all day in the Summer time stifled with heat, and choaked with the dust; or the Winter time starving and freezing with cold, or choaked with filthy Fogs, they are often brought into their Inns by Torch-light, when it is too late to sit up to get a Supper; and next morning they are forced into the Coach so early, that they can get no Breakfast. What addition is this to mens Health or Business, to ride all day with strangers, oftentimes sick, ancient, diseased Persons, or young Children crying; to whose humours they are obliged to be subject, forced to bear with, and many times are poisoned with their nasty Scents, and crippled by the crowd of the Boxes and Bundles.

Is it for a Man's Health to travel with tired Jades, to be laid fast in the foul Ways, and forced to wade up to the knees in mire; afterwards sit in the cold, till Teams of Horses can be sent to pull the Coach out? Is it for their health to travel in rotten Coaches, and to have their Tackle, or Pearch, or Axletree broken, and then to wait three or four hours, sometimes half a day to have them mended again, and then to travel all night to make good their Stage? Is it for Mans pleasure or advantageous to their Healths and Business, to travel with a mixt Company that he knows not how to converse with; to be affronted by the rudeness of a surly, dogged, cursing, ill-natured Coachman, necessitated to Lodg or Bait at the worst Inns on the Road, where there is no accommodation fit for Gentlemen; and this meerly because the Owners of the Inns, and the Coachmen, are agreed together to cheat the Guests?

Is it for the advantage of Business, That a Man, when he sets out a Journey, must come just at their hour, or be left behind: so that often he is forced, when one hours staying would finish his Business, to go

out of Town, leave it undone, and make a new Journey about it? Is it for advantage of a Man's Business, that though he have a Concern of great weight or moment to transact upon the Road as he goes along, yet if it lie but a stones-cast out of the Coach-way, the Coachman will not drive thither, nor stay for him at any place, except the Baiting or Lodging-places where he calls, where they change Horses; and there stay no longer than he pleases neither. To be forced, whatever accident of sickness or illness happens, to ride these Coachmens Stages, though never so late in the night, or else to be left in the middle of a Journey in a strange place; is this for the conveniency or advantage of a Man's Health or Business? rather the quite contrary; Yet this hath been many Persons of good Qualities case, though they have offered to pay the whole Coach-hire, all the Passengers charges, to have put into an Inn (late at night on this side the set-Stage) yet have they been denyed, forced to ride, though in peril of their lives, till midnight: And it is not hard to instance in many that have lost their lives by such usage.

All which Inconveniencies, if Stage-Coaches were suppress'd, would be remedied, lazy humours be discountenanced; and a great conveniency indeed it would be, both to Travellers, and the Countrey through which they ride, for Men and Women to travel on Horseback again.

For then they may; when their business is done at one place, presently take Horse and go to another, without loss of time, or staying for a passage in a Coach, set out as early in the morning, and take up as soon in the evening, and bait as long, and as often by the way, and in what places they please, make choice of their Company on the Road, avoid such as suit not with their tempers, go out of the Roads when, and travel as long or short Journeys as they please, keep out of Cold, Wet, or Fogs, and take into Inns when the weather is not fit to travel in, and so preserve their Healths. And by this means great advantages would happen, for then all Towns, and every Inn, would have something to do, Trade would be more diffused, many poor Families in the Countrey would be maintained, that now are in a starving condition; Travellers would come into their Inns before Candlelight, stay in the morning till Shops open, understand the Trade of the place they are in, lay out monies in buying things they find fit for their use, and which are of the Manufactures of the Town where they come; in some places, Silk or Worsted-Hose; in others, Lace, Gloves, Stuffs, Boots, or Shoes, Linnen-Cloath, and other things, which would be great relief and encouragement to the Manufacturers of those Commodities, as well as to those that buy them, and bring money to those places where they are made.

4ly. These Coaches are not absolutely necessary to any persons whatever; for sick or aged people, or young children, if they have occasion to travel, may ride in the long Waggon-Coaches, which were those that first were set up, and are not now opposed, because they do little or no hurt: For, Gentlemen that are able to ride on horseback, keep Coaches of their own, or to hire a Coach, will not appear so fordid as to travel in them. And truly, if they be poor people that are to travel, it is not fit they should be encouraged in their pride or extravagancy, or suffered to ride amongst Gentlemen, or like persons of Honor in a Coach, with four or six horses; and for sick and aged people, and young children, these long Coaches are more convenient for them than running Coaches, if they were to be continued up; for, they travel not such long journeys, go not out so early in the morning, neither come they in so late at night; but stay by the way, travel easily, without jolting mens bodies, or hurrying them along, as the running Coaches do.

5ly. Neither are these running Coaches useful to any, for, those that are fit to ride, or ought to be suffered to ride in them, are such, that if they have business requiring a Coach, may either keep one themselves, or hire one.

6ly. But though these Coaches are neither absolutely necessary to some, nor useful to others, yet they are imposed upon many; for, since they set up in such multitudes, especially about London, men careless of keeping horses, knowing the certainty of passage in them, have sold them, and must therefore, when they travel, either ride in these Coaches, or not at all, there being few or no Horses kept now to let out to Hire.

If by what hath been said upon this point, it happen Gentlemen may travel on horseback, more to the advantage and benefit of Trade, and so to the publick good, with more advantage to their healths and business, and less expence of money and time than they can in Stage-Coaches.

If these Stage-Coaches be not absolutely necessary to some, useful to what other Coaches; may be made to others, and yet this imposed upon many, what reason can be given why they should not all or most of them be suppressed?

If they were not destructive to Trade, why should Petitions from almost all sorts of Tradesmen, come up from most Cities and Towns in England against them, as there hath been lately presented to His Majesty and the Council? Why should the Justices of Peace at their General

ral Quarter Sessions, certifie to His Majestie and his honorable Privy Council, under their hands (as they have done) that the great Mischiefs aforementioned, under which the Kingdom now suffers, have been greatly occasioned by these Coaches, and that many thousands of Families are ruined by them, as from *London, Westminster, Salisbury, Middlesex*, and divers other Cities, Counties and Towns, Certificates have come? Why should the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of *London*, at their Court at *Guildhal*, upon serious consideration and debate of the Petition of the several Companies of *London*, against the said Coaches, wherein most of these grievances are mentioned, allow of the same, and give leave that it should be presented, if they were not convinced, that they are destructive to Trade? For surely they understand Trade, and were not so weak as to be cheated into their consent and approbation (neither have they any time since repented of, or disowned the same) as the Stage-Coachmen in false and scandalous Pamphlets have presumed to print; notwithstanding which, they are ready to own the said Petition, and make good the Contents thereof: And the *Drapers, Haberdashers and Milliners*, (who, they pretend, would be prejudiced by their being superseded) are ready, with the other Tradesmen mentioned in that Pamphlet, to evince to the World, they are injured by their being kept up; so that the very Coach and Harness-Makers themselves petition against them, as being mischievous to their Trades, in regard they prevent the making of great Numbers of Coaches every year; which must have been made, if Gentlemen had travelled in their own Coaches, and thereby they hinder the Consumption of great quantities of Leather.

If all these things be true, what can be said against their being suppress?

It is Objected, *The Owners of these Coaches set them up for the convenience of the Subjects; have betaken themselves to this painful way of living, and paid out their whole Stocks, interly to accommodate Gentlemen, and have now no other way to live, what shall become of them, if they be put down?*

Ans. It is the case but of very few, that the suppressing of them would hurt: for, if all Stage-Coaches were to be suppress, I dare say five for one of those that keep them would receive advantage thereby, as clearly will be evinced, if it be considered, that when this business was before His Majestie in Council, where it depends undetermined, none of the Stagers opposed the being put down, except *Exeter, Salisbury, Dorchester, Bristol, Southampton, Dover, Norwich, Lincoln, York, Westchester,*

chester, Worcester and Shrewsbury, who call themselves, *Stage-Coachmen* upon the grand Roads of England; and there is not one Owner of any of these Coaches, but hath otherways to live, if he were prohibited driving them; for, they are all of them either Innholders, or Coach or Harness-makers, following those Trades, or Carriers, or licensed Coachmen in *London*; and may live as well as the Hackney Coachmen in *London*: The other Stage-Coaches, are all or most of them kept either by Innholders first, who (one in a Town) did set up a Coach, and so carried all the Guests to his own house. Then a second sets up another, and so a third and fourth in a Town: Which done, they run one against another, purposely to get the Guests from each other houses; whereby they not only destroy multitudes of horses, but are great losers themselves; so that themselves would be thankful to have them put down, and yet are forced to keep them up, until there shall be a general suppression, because otherwise they shall lose their whole Trades. Or else the said Stage-Coaches are kept by such, as before the late Act for reducing the number of Hackney Coaches in *London* to 400, were Owners of Coaches, and drove Hackney there: But when the number of 400 was full, and they not licensed, then to avoid the penalties of the Act, they removed out of the City, dispersing themselves into every little Town within twenty miles of *London*, where they set up for Stagers, and Drive every Day to *London*, and in the night time they drive about the City, pay no 5 *l. per annum*, yet take away both the Town and Country work from those that do pay it, and break and annoy the streets in the Cities and Suburbs thereof, hinder the 400 from the Jobs and small Journeys they depended upon, when they agreed to pay 5 *l.* a peice *per annum* for their Licences; whereby they are many of them ruined. But take it for granted it were so, that these Stage-Coachmen had laid out all their Stocks for the use aforesaid, and must be undone if put down, and there were at least 2000 of them, what is that? (of two evils the lesser is to be chosen.) Have they not already destroyed very many Thousands of Families? will not the continuing of them, in very short time, be the undoing of many Thousands more? is the interest of these surlly, rude, debauch'd Coachmen, to be put into the Ballance with the many Thousands of *Curriers, Shoemakers, Sadlers, Girdlers, Spurriers, Cutlers, Lorainers, Cloathiers, Cloath-workers, Cloath-drawers, Drapers, Taylors*, and an hundred Trades more, to which men were bound seven years Apprentiship to learn their Trades, and are of great advantage to the publick. Surely, they ought to be encouraged, being the Manufacturers of the Staple-Commodities

modities of the Kingdom: by the manufacturing whereof, great profit doth arise to the Publick: Yet of these, if occasion require, it will be made appear, above 100000, with their Families, are in great measure ruined by them. And I pray you, who are advantaged thereby? what persons are imployed or set at work by them, save only a few Servant-Coachmen, Postillions and Hostlers? whom they pretend they breed up and make fit for the service of the Nobility and Gentry of the Land; a most incomparable School to train men up in! and to fit them for the Gallows, more likely than to live in sober Families; but in the mean time, while these are breeding up, the Price and Rents of Lands are so brought down by hindrance these Coaches do make of the Consumption of Provisions and Manufactures, that in a short time few Gentlemen will be in a capacity to keep Coaches; so that if all Running Stage-Coaches and Caravans were suppressed, it would do well. But if some few Coaches were continued, (to wit) one to every Shire-Town in *England*, to go once a week backwards and forwards, and to go through with the same Horses they set forth with, and not travel above 30 miles a day in the Summer, and 25 miles in the Winter, and to shift Inns every Journey, that so Trade might be diffused; these would be sufficient to carry the Sick and the Lame, that they pretend cannot travel on Horseback; and being thus regulated, they would do little or no harm; especially if all be suppressed within 40 or 50 miles of *London*, where they are no way necessary, and yet so highly destructive. But this, as well as the rest, I submit to judgment.

THE Eighth Thing Propos'd is, That the Act for Transportation of Leather unmanufactured, may be repealed, or at least not renewed after the expiration thereof. There would never have been any necessity for this Act, had it not been that vast quantities of Hides are Exported from *Ireland*, which brings down the price of our *English* Hides. And for the Stage-Coaches, their hindering the Consumption of that Leather in *England*, which, before they set up, was used for Boots, Saddles, Portmanteues, Harnesses, Holsters, Belts, Girths, Reins, Stirrup-Leathers, and many other things now, become almost useless.

The making whereof, for Home-service and Foreign-Consumption,
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employed about 100000 Families, whose Livelihood depended upon the manufacturing of Leather, whereby they got Money, with which they maintained their Families, spent five or six good Joins of Meat in a week in their Houses, and wore good Clothes, thereby occasioning the Consumption of great quantities of the Provisions and Manufactures of the Kingdom, more than now are consumed. Till this Act passed, it was felony to transport Leather unmanufactured, and then *France, Spain, Germany*, and other parts, who could not be without our Leather, had vast quantities of Boots, Shoes, and Saddles, with their Appurtenances, Portmantues, Hat-Cases, Holsters, Trunks, &c. from *England*; by the making whereof many thousands of Families got a handfom subsistence, and grew rich; but Stage-Coaches hindring the Consumption at home as aforesaid; and *Irish* Hides being Imported into *England*, and also great quantities from *Ireland*, exported to Foreign Parts, our Hides fell in their price in *England*. The Question then arose, how to raise them to their ancient value; and it was by the Parliament conceived, that giving a liberty to transport the same unmanufactured, might answer the end proposed; therefore an Act for that purpose was passed.

But sad hath been, and yet is, the consequence thereof: for, ever since that liberty given, the best of our Leather is constantly bought up, and transported beyond Seas unmanufactured, Foreigners who formerly were supplied with Leather wrought here, will not buy or carry over a penny-worth that is manufactured; so that all those poor people who served Apprentisships to learn their Trades, and whose Trade depended upon manufacturing for Foreign Consumption, are undone; they that kept 20 or 30 Journey-men at work every day, cannot now (though eminent men of their own Trades) keep two; by means whereof, upon computation, at least 50000 Men and their Families Livelihoods are wholly taken away, and they so impoverished, that they are ready to receive Alms of the several parishes wherein they live; whilst in the mean time Foreigners grow rich by manufacturing one of the Staple Commodities of this Kingdom; and whereas till this Act passed, all our old Boots and Shoes were bought up, mended here, and then sent beyond the Seas, and there worn.

The case is now otherwise; for the best of our Leather is not only bought up and transported unmanufactured and wrought beyond Seas; but when it is wrought, it is then imported back, and vended here, to the great prejudice and discouragement of Manufacturers in *England*, who have many of them been forced (as great a want of
People

People as there is in *England*) to transport themselves beyond the Seas for want of work at home, and there have taught their Art to Foreigners. What then doth naturally follow all these things? What Consequence can be drawn from hence, but this, that instead of 500 *ls.* worth of Leather formerly sent beyond Seas manufactured, we send now as much Leather, but it is not worth above 100 *l.* because the same is carried over unwrought: by which means our Manufacturers lose 400 *l.* which they should have gotten, if the Leather had been Cut and Wrought in *England*, and so thereby we grow poor, and Foreigners grow rich, by gaining that 400 *l.* which our Manufacturers lose.

But this is not all; for, most of our Leather that is exported, goes into *France*, with whom we never were able to keep up a Ballance of Trade, but have traded with them for ready Money, (they taking little or none of the Manufactures of *England* in exchange for their Commodities). By a moderate computation, from the best intelligence I can get, *France* receives from *England* 30000 *ls.* worth of our Leather every year, which they cannot be without (for, our Leather-Manufacture, was the only Manufacture that they were forced to be holden unto us for). 30000 *ls.* worth of our Leather manufactured, was worth in *France* 120000 *l.* then at least 70000 *l.* of that went into our Manufacturers Pockets, the rest to the Merchants, and what our Manufacturers got, was spent in the Provisions and Manufactures of the Kingdom; which being consumed, bare a better rate than now, and helpt to keep up the Rents of Lands.

This Money we not only now lose, to our Impoverishment, and the *French* get, to their Inriching; but considering that we now import as much (nay far more) of *French* Goods into *England* than we did formerly; and taking it for granted, that when we transported the most that ever we did, yet could not a ballance of Trade be kept up between the two Kingdoms, but our ready Money went for a great part of the Goods imported; then must it naturally follow, that by sending our Leather unmanufactured, which formerly was manufactured, we must send over nigh 100000 *l.* more in ready Money than formerly we did, (or need to do were it not for this Act) which furnisheth *France* with our Coyn, to pay their Workmen for manufacturing of our Staple-Commodities, and greatly exhausteth the Treasure of this Kingdom; But if this Act be repealed, and *Ireland*s transporting of Raw Hides be prevented, then *France* and other Foreigners must have Leather from *England* manufactured, as formerly they had, whereby our Handicraft Tradesmen would be set at work, and having work, would live hand-

somely as formerly they did, to consume the Provisions and Manufactures of the Kingdom: So that to any rational man it must be apparent, that this Act hath not answered the end designed, nor raised the price of Hides, as expected, nor can it; for *Ireland* transporting vast quantities of raw Hides beyond the Seas, and Importing great quantities of their Hides into *England*, as aforesaid, hinders the sale of our Hides or Tanned Leather at any considerable rates, either at home, or to Foreigners, because we want a Consumption at home; and Foreigners chuse to buy their raw Hides rather than our Leather, by reason they can purchase them at a third part of the price we can afford to sell ours at, and by tanning of them employ their own Bark; which is a great mischief to the Gentry in *England*, whose Bark, by reason thereof, sells at very low rates.

 I X.

THe Ninth thing proposed is, That a Court in the nature of a Court of Requests in *London*, be established for *Westminster*, *Southwark*, and all other parts within the Weekly Bills of Mortality; and, if possible, in every City and Town Corporate in *England*, to determine Differences between poor people for small Debts, not exceeding 40 s. and for Words, Trespasses, Assaults and Batteries (where the people pay neither Scot nor Lot) that so they may not be undone by Law-suits.

The Court of Requests in *London* is of excellent use, long continuance, and hath prevented the ruine of many thousands of Families, and might have done far more, had it not been limited to the Liberties of the City; whereby all *Westminster*, *Southwark*, *Tower-Hamlets*, *Middlesex* and *Surry*, within the Weekly Bills of Mortalities, wherein the generality of the poor inhabit, are excluded their Jurisdiction.

Of these Poor (for want of this Court) many are every year undone by Law-Suits, commenced against each other for small debts, or trivial Actions, for Words, Assaults, or Trespasses; the poorest oftentimes proving the proudest, most quarrelsome and vexatious.

These are such who maintain themselves and Families, by turning and winding 20 or 40 s. a week, which they take upon their credit, and employ in buying and selling Butchers-meat, Poultry-ware, and Fish, Herbs, Fruit and Roots, Boiled-Wheat and Oat-cakes, Butter and Eggs, and divers other things, which they cry about the streets, or sell at Tavern-doors, or in little Barks, as Orenge, Limons, Oysters, Tape,

Tape, Thred-laces, Silk and Ferret Ribbon, Childrens Play-things, and such like small Commodities, whereby they keep^r their Families from burthening they Parishés wherein they dwell ; and yet are so poor, that they are not rated to the Church and Poor where they trade.

These people are (the greatest part of them) most commonly indebted 20, 30, or 40 s. apiece for the Stock they trade with ; nevertheless have more owing to them, by the persons they sell their Wares to, than when received will pay such their Debts ; but there are cunning Fellows belonging to the *Marshalsey*, *St. Katharines*, *Whitechappel* and *Westminster* (pretending to be Bailiffs or other Officers) placed in every part of *London* and *Westminster*, and the Suburbs thereof, who make it their business to enquire out these Poor and their Creditors, and thereupon to contrive some stories whereby to incite their Creditors to make a demand of their Debts ; and if not presently paid, then to arrest the Debtors : These Knaves also spend their whole time in promoting differences between the poorer sort of people, for frivolous words, slight trespasses, or pitiful small debts ; which done, they are employed to arrest men ; and the person arrested, must either presently pay and give satisfaction, or put in Bail ; the which if he cannot do (as frequently it happens they cannot, they laying their Actions high (though the occasion of action be very small) then they are hurried over to the Knight Marshals Prison, or to some other Goal, and put to great expence, lose their Credit and Trade, and very many of them are utterly ruined by the charge of Arrests, Prison Fees, and the Suits, though the verdict upon their Tryals happen to be for them, as most commonly it is, there being not one Action in ten brought in those Courts for Words or Trespasses, that happen to be according to Law.

Nevertheless, if the said Defendants Demur, because the words are not actionable, or the Plaintiff have a Verdict, and the Defendant move in Arrest of Judgement, and the Judgement be Arrested, yet in neither of these Cases hath the Defendant any Costs ; so that both Plaintiffs and Defendants spend their money in vain, and the Parishés where the Defendants inhabit, are frequently forced to redeem them out of the Marshalseys, *White Chappel*, *St. Katharines*, and other Goals, or otherwise they should lie and starve in Prison, though the Cause of Action were but a Trifle ; the Charges and Fees oftentimes falling out to be four, five or six times as much as originally the Action was brought for ; by reason whereof the recovering of 4 d. 6 d. or 12 d. sometimes costs 3 l. 4 l. 5 l. or 6 l. Whereas if the Court desired were erected to end these Differences in a summary, less expensive, and more expeditious way

way, the utter ruine of some hundreds, if not thousands of Families, would be every year prevented, the Parish charges greatly lessened, and quarrellsome vexatious Suits for small Debts of 40 s. or under, or for Trespasses, Assaults, or words, would be prevented.

In *London*, no Freeman within the Liberties dwelling, can be arrested or sued for any Debt under Forty shillings; the *Court of Conscience* or *Requests* sits at *Guildhal* *Wednesday* and *Saturdays* in every week, to hear Complaints, and take course therein: Upon any Complaint they first send a Summons to the party complained against, and that is served upon him by a sworn Officer, and costs 6 d. which done, the next Court day the Plaintiff must attend, and call the Defendant, and enter his own appearance; else is non-suited, loseth his Summons, and must begin again; but the Defendant runs no hazard in not appearing the first day.

If the Defendant appear the second Court day after Summons, he prevents an Attachment, and is ordered to pay his debt; for which the Plaintiff pays 4 d.

If the Defendant fail to appear the second Court day, before the Court riseth, the Court grants an Attachment; which costs, being executed, amount to 1 s. 10 d.

The Officer serves this Attachment, so soon as he can find the Defendant; which done, he gives the Plaintiff notice, that the Defendant will meet him next Court day, and that costs 4 d. more.

If the Defendant appear, and is cast, he pays for the Summons and Attachment; which is but 2 s. eight pence in the whole.

But if the Defendant appear not the third Court day after Attached, than the Plaintiff comes and swears his Debt, and the Court orders payment thereof at the Plaintiffs own house, if he pleaseth; which saves 8 d. that must be paid, if it be brought into Court, to take it out again, and this Order costs 4 d. more.

Of this Order the Officer gives the Defendant notice, and that he must meet the Plaintiff in Court the third Court day after the making thereof.

If the Defendant appear not the third Court day, then upon the Plaintiffs request, the Courts grants Judgment and Execution against him; which costs 2 s.

So that the whole Charge of Summons, Order and Attachment; Second Order for Judgement, and the Judgement and Execution executed, comes but to 4 s. 8 d.

And

And all is done in three weeks time : but the Suit in the *Marshalsey*, *White Chappel*, or *St. Katherine's*, or *Westminster* Courts, and Charges incident thereunto, costs 4 *l.* or 5 *l.* when the Debt or Cause of Action was not worth Five shillings.

The erecting the Court desired, would give a great credit to the Poor.

For, were such Courts erected, every Gentleman or person of any considerable estate would lend a poor distressed neighbour Twenty, Thirty, or Forty shillings, to put him in a way to live, or to prevent their being cast into Prison, if arrested for a small sum; whereas now poor men are forced to borrow of Brokers, pawn double the value of what they borrow, and pay above *Cent. per Cent.* interest; which eats out their profit, so presseth and grinds them, that they frequently are incapacitated to redeem the Pledges left for the money taken up (which is one other great mischief worthy the consideration of the Parliament, and fit to be redressed) whereas whilst the Law is thus costly, men are afraid to lend their Neighbours Thirty or Forty shillings to set them up with, or to prevent their being imprisoned, because if they repay it not without a Suit, the same may cost five or six times as much as the Original Debt; and when the Creditor hath Judgement, he is not sure of his Debt, but in danger, through the poverty of the Creditor, to lose both Principal, Debt, Interest and Charges, or undergo the hard Censures and Clamours of the poor, by confining them to Prison; which no ingenuous or generous soul can endure the thoughts of.

By the erecting this Court, there is none can be prejudiced, excepting,

First, *Bailiffs*, one of which fellows to arrest a poor man, though it be but for three pence, four pence, or some other very small sum, makes the man pay four or five shillings for the Arrest, hurries him into an Alehouse, and there runs him twelve pence or two shillings on the score; and if not able presently to pay the same, hurries him to Prison.

Secondly, Several idle Persons, falsely calling themselves *Attorneys*, who are as active as the Bayliffs, to promote and carry on Suits begun, though but for trivial Matters, setting people together by the ears, and living upon the ruine of the poor, make them sell their very Beds from under them, or Cloaths from off their backs, to pay their pretended Fees, and the Fees of the Courts, which is too frequently done.

Thirdly,

Thirdly, Of the Judges of the *Marshalsey, Westminster, St. Katharines, White-Chappel*, and other Inferior Courts of Record, where small Debts under 40 s. may be recovered : but certainly, they having their places given them *gratis*, and being persons of generous education, will not oppose so charitable a work as this proposed, though they should lose some profit thereby, such profit coming from such miserable poor people, that it were charity in them rather to give them as much as their Fees comes to, than to exact any thing from them.

And if they, by the Court desired, should lose a little profit, they will save much time that they now spend in trying these Causes, and being Lawyers, may certainly spend it to as great (if not better) advantage than what they will lose by setting up the Judicature proposed.

Let these consider, that such Gentlemen, not being Lawyers, as shall be appointed Judges of the Courts desired, will be greater losers than they are, since they must sit and spend their Time and Money without any manner of Compensation at all, save the satisfaction they will receive in being instrumental of doing good to the Poor, which certainly they will do.

For whereas now it costs 5 or 6 l. to recover 5 or 6 s. by the way proposed, 4 s. 8 d. is all the Charge (though the Suits be spun out to the utmost extremity) that any Suitor or Defendant can be put unto.

So by the setting up of this Court, Justice will be had speedier and cheaper ;

The ruine of many poor People, by multitudes of vexatious Suits for small Matters, will be prevented ;

Love and Amity betwixt Neighbours will be preserved ; Charges of the Parishes lessened ; Mens Liberties to follow their Callings, to their own and Families Comfort, will be continued ; and the Debts they owe, be more easily and speedily payed ;

And a Work very pleasing and acceptable to God will be done, who hath pronounced a blessing upon all those who consider the Poor, for whose relief alone this is proposed.

X.

THe Tenth Thing Proposed is, That a bound be put to the extravagant Habits and Expences of all sorts of Persons; that Servants and Handicraft Tradesmen's expensive wayes be reduced, and no Foreign Manufactures (except from *Ireland*) be suffered to be worn in *England*; but that the Importation and Exposing them to Sale, be made Felony.

There is nothing ruins the Gentry and Tradesmen of *England* so much, as living above their Estates or Profit arising by their Trades. How much all sorts of men do this, I leave the World to judge, their Habits and other Expences being more extravagant and vain than ever was known; and not only do Masters and Mistresses of Families run to excess in their own dresses, but suffer and encourage their Servants also to do the same, which costs them dear at last; for, all comes out of their Pockets, and it makes Servants so proud and scornful, as to neglect their Duties, slight their Superiors, and upon every little reproof to go from them.

How many Gentlemen are there in *England* that spend their whole yearly Incomes upon clothing themselves, their Wives and Children? What way then have they to answer their other Familie Expences, but by spending upon the main Stock?

How careless are Parents of their Childrens Education, bringing them up idly, putting them upon no manner of imployment, unless to Musick and Dancing; using them to Balls and Playes, and to keep vain Company; which they get such an habit of, that they very hardly (if ever) can be broken from it, but spend most of their time in Gaming, Whoring, and Drinking; so that by that time they come to their Estates, whatever their Fathers leave them, by following their Examples, they quickly make it away, (if they have not run it out before they come to it). Their Clothes must be of the Mode, Gentlemen of 3 or 400 *per annum*, will be as fine, keep their Coaches, live as high as if they were Lords, and had great Estates; and nothing will serve them but what is Foreign made, whilst our own Countrey-men starve for want of Work; insomuch now that our *English* Manufacturers, of Silk especially, and Point-Laces, and Ribbons, (which are become a general wear) cannot sell their Goods when they have made them, or if

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they

they do, it is at such pittiful low rates, that they lose by their work, and the Shopkeepers that buy them, when they come to shew them to Customers, are forced to avouch them to be Foreign made, or else they cannot sell them; so that our Manufacturers are often necessitated to get *French*-men to go with their Wares, and sell them to Shopkeepers as *French*. Thereupon the Gentry (though the Goods be *English* made) are so fond as to pay dearer for them than otherwise they need to do, because of the Brokage which the Manufacturer payes to those that sell them to the Shops, and so the Manufacturers get little or nothing by them. So great a truth there is in this, that I could instance where Persons of Quality have come into a Shop, seen a Commodity, liked it well, but being ingeniously told that it was *English* made, would not buy it. The very next day, the same Goods have been sent by a *French* woman to the Persons desiring to buy the same, and they have bought them as *French* Goods, and payed double as much for them as they might have had them for the day before in the Shop.

Is not this a thing highly commendable in our Gentry, so to admire Foreigners, and undervalue, discourage, and hurt their Native Country-men? Did they consider, or were they but sensible how they hurt and ruine them, themselves, and their own Estates, by such their vain fancies, hindring the Consumption of our Manufacturies, and impoverishing our Manufacturers, certainly they would give it over. A farther mischief there is also, That Gentlemen and Ladies do fancy greatly to have their Servants that are about them, so fine and neat, that they must be in their Silk-Gowns, and Peticoats laced, Whisks, and Cuffs, fine Shoes and Stockings, that they will not do any ordinary Work; whereby they are necessitated to keep more Servants than they used or need to do. And what the Wages and Dyet of every Servant comes to in a year, (especially about *London*, where it is that most people are grown so vain) let themselves compute.

Come to the Citizens, who complain for want of a Trade, but without a Cause, (though so many Tradesmen fail yearly) for there never was a greater Trade than there is now. What reason is there then of their failing? It is high living, every Tradesman thinking now to have as great a Trade, and as quickly to grow rich, as those did that were of his Trade twenty or thirty years agoe, never considering that there are five times as many of most Trades as were then, and that thereby Trade is more diffused, Shopkeepers of late years, through covetousness of a little Money, taking double or treble the number of Apprentices that formerly they kept, or indeed (strictly looked after) than they ought to keep,

keep, (nothing spoyling any particular Trade, more than to have multiplicity of Traders in the same way); with these Apprentices they exact as much more money as formerly they used to have, so that perhaps half their Portion is gone to bind them Apprentices; which is a great madness, and no reason to be given for it, but because Apprentices must live high, and wear finer Cloaths than formerly they did, wait on their Masters abroad, do none of the servile Work that formerly they used to do; which kept them humble; and if they were now obliged to the same, it would keep them from growing so proud and scornful as they are, or taking the liberty they now do, of taunting at their Superiors, quarrelling with their Services, Usage, and Diet, and going from them, when fit to do them service; And if it happen that they do serve out their Time, and have a 1000 *l.* to set up with, it is very well, and a fair beginning, treble as much as many of their Masters had when they set up; who by close living, and diligence, and great industry, after many years care and pains, have arrived to an Estate of 20; 30, or 40000 *l.* and a good certain custom, so consequently are able to buy their Commodities with ready Money, cheaper than he that hath but a small stock, and trades upon credit, and thereby they are able to keep the custom from their Servants when they set up, because they can give Customers a greater credit, and a longer time for payment; yet a young Man, so soon as he comes out of his Time, not knowing whether ever he shall attain to a full Trade, will have as good a House as his Masters keep, as high a Table, lay out 4 or 500 *l.* out of his 1000 *l.* Stock, in furnishing his House, and the Fine of the same; his design being thereby to advance himself in a Match. And thereupon he gets a Wife, perhaps with a 1000 *l.* Portion; which, added to his own Stock, if the same had been kept together, would have made 2000 *l.* but of this, one half of his being gone for a Fine of a House and Furniture, as aforesaid, the Wife, out of Hers, will have fine Cloaths, Laces, Cupboards of Plate, Neck-Lace of Pearls, Jewels in her Ears, Diamond-Rings on her Fingers, Bulls-Locks, or Towers; Laced or Imbroidered Petticoats, Shoes and Silk-Hose. So that in these Things goes 3 or 400 *l.* more, which might, most of it, have been saved.

Add to this the vast Rent he sits at, and must pay whether he hath a Trade or not; If this had been spared, he might have had it of his own to have traded with: but this laid out, it lyes dead, whilst he is forced, for want thereof, to Trade upon Credit for so much, and pay Interest for the same. This Credit if he keeps not, he is lost; and being necessitated to trust, and trusting being dangerous, many men are undone;

partly by that, and partly by the extravagancies of their good Wives ; who being, through their Husbands vanity and indiscretion, made so fine, will not stir out of Doors without a Coach ; and yet make such frequent and long visits, that they spend more in Coach-hire some weeks, than the gains of the Shop comes to ; and abroad they get new Acquaintance, at Balls, Playes, or Dancing-Schools ; and being young, pretty, and in fine Cloaths, are so courted and gallanted, that oftentimes they are perswaded into such Inconveniencies, as prove fatal to their Husbands, as well as to themselves ; but the Husbands may blame themselves, they being originally the occasion thereof, and o their own ruine thereby ; for, nothing will serve them but to live at this rate, keep their Wives thus fine, expose them to Temptations, by setting them in their Shops, in tempting Dresses, thinking to invite Customers ; and thereby very often they have that effect ; but sometimes those Customers make bold with the Ware that should not be sold or lent ; and once having attained that liberty, if both Parties agree, it is ten to one if that poor Man be not presently blown up, either by the charge his Wife will put him to in maintaining that Gallant, or by the Credit that good Gentleman shall have in the Shop, to take up what he pleases. And then when gone as far as the Owner can give credit for, he leaves the Shop and his Mistress to his care. Nevertheless, sometimes men are undone, and yet their Wives are vertuous, (as without doubt many thousands are, and more would be, were it not the Husbands fault) ; That is, when after their being a while set up, and a little Estate gotten, they grow high, keep their Coaches, must have their Countrey-Houses, the Candles burning at both ends, never thinking they shall see an end of their Gains. And their Wives forsooth must not be Nurses, but send their Children abroad ; so that reckoning the charge of keeping there, and frequent going to see them, and the Gifts and good things that are unknown carried to the Nurses ; these high Expences, accompanied with a decay and declination of Trade, occasioned by the multiplicity of Traders, (as aforesaid) go far in destroying young Beginners. Moreover, the keeping unnecessary Maid-Servants, giving them great Wages, and maintaining them idle in fine Habits and Dresses, (who with their vain and wanton carriages, oftentimes become snares to young men) ; this finisheth the work, and both Masters, Mistresses, and Servants, come all to ruine thereby.

One other great mischief to the young Tradesmen, who are industrious, close husbands, and sober in their habits and expences, is the great Rents they pay in the City, when the Trade is gone to the other end of
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the Town where Rents are low. Were all men of my mind, those who lived in *London* before the fire, and are Freemen, and now, to the destruction of the City, live in the Suburbs, meerly to enrich themselves, they should starve before a peny should be laid out amongst them: Why should they not come into the City again, and make that the seat of Trade? which is the Metropolitan of *England*, and at such vast charge, in Compliance with the Kings pleasure, is nobly rebuilt, and so many thousands are undone by the building thereof, by having their houses stand empty on their hands; such base treacherous men to the City, who no more value their Oaths they took when bound Apprentices and made free, ought not to be countenanced where they are, by buying any thing of them; there is not one of them but is forsworn, if he duly weigh and consider the purport of his Oath. And he that will make no Conscience of forswearing himself, meerly to gain a little advantage in his Trade, I am sure will make no Conscience of cheating of me; therefore shall never have any of my custom.

One other great mischief to young Tradesmen is, that they, being but beginners, are forced to keep Shops, in order to gain a custom, and thereby are constrained to pay great Rents and Taxes, which are very hard upon *London*, treeble as much in proportion, as upon any one County of *England*, and paid by these young men, whilst your cunning rich ancient Tradesmen, having a large Acquaintance, great Stock, and a full Trade, give over their Shops, and take a Countrey-house, where they live for a small Rent, pay not the sixth part of Taxes that are paid in *London*, and so carry on their Trade in *London* privately in Warehouses. I could name several of the Chief Magistrates that do so, but will not at present, though they deserve it. Have they, through Gods blessing, arrived by their Trades in the City to great Estates, and to be the chief Magistrates thereof, only to be covetous and sordid, seeking to save a little money, when they have so much that they know not what to do with it, and thereby put all the Charges upon those young Shop-keepers, through their Avarice? And thus many of these young men fall to ruine, whilst the elder run away with all the Trade, and Engross the same into their own hands. It is a great shame this should be suffered, and such men ought not to have any manner of Government or Power in or over the City, who make use of it only to enrich themselves, by destroying those they govern.

Moreover, Handicraft Tradesmens high wages, which they exact for their work, is greatly mischievous, not only to every man that hath occasion to use them, whose particular occasion cannot be served but at far greater rates than formerly, which, if that were all, would be little, but it is destructive to Trade, hinders the consumption of our Manufactures by Foreigners, and the exportation of those vast quantities that used to be transported, when the manufacturing of them was so cheap as formerly; for, now Wool and Leather being cheaper manufactured beyond the Seas than here, we are undersold in Foreign Markets, to our great prejudice; which if not prevented, in few years will tend to the total ruine and destruction of our Woollen and Leather Manufacturies. I can give no better account for this advancement of their wages, than our *English* peoples foolishness, in encouraging Foreigners beyond their own Neighbours, wearing their Manufacturies, and neglecting the use of our own; by means whereof our Manufacturers work is carried away from them: so that whereas they had six days work formerly, they have not above three now, and having the same families, must either have double the wages they had when they had full Employ (which enhaunceth the price of the Commodities) or let their families want bread three days in the week.

So the Case thus stands in short: As for the loss of the Foreign Trade we had, and the want of the consumption that used to be of our Manufacturies in Foreign parts, no other reason can be given, but that Foreigners are able to make their work cheaper than we do, and thereby are able to undersell us where-ever we come; and the reason of their working cheaper is, because they live not so high, neither are their expences in wages and working so great as ours. If they were, how could Foreigners fetch our Wool and Leather, pay Freight and Custom outward, manufacture it abroad, and then Import it back again, paying a second Custom, and yet sell it cheaper here than we do ours? If this be true, and thereby the Foreign Consumption of our Manufacturies be lost, the more reason there is then, in my poor judgement, to endeavour the reducing the wages of our Manufacturers, and themselves to a more sober, and less expensive way of living, that thereby, if possible, we may regain that Trade: Which if we do, we shall soon set our people at work (who now want bread.) And nothing can be more conducing to this end, than to enjoyn all *English* men not to wear any thing but what is of our own Growth and Manufacturies; which will increase a Consumption at home, and set those at work who now live idle, and by giving them full work, would bring down their

their wages : so that then we having our Wool and Leather cheaper than Foreigners have, and being able to manufacture them at as easie rates as they do, it will then necessarily follow, that we may undersell them in Foreign Markets; which if we can do, and will be honest, make good substantial and true work, that will hold out its weight, and the full length and breadth they formerly did, we may regain that Foreign Trade.

And the better to effect this, all Foreign Manufacturies (except of Linnen, which we cannot be without) ought to be prohibited, and the exposing them to sale made Felony (so as the person selling be privy to their being such) except what is manufactured in *Ireland*; which of necessity we must make our selves Masters of, otherwise they having Wool, and Leather, and Workmen cheaper then we can have, will by supplying Foreign Markets at Lower rates than we can sell for, gain that Trade; and thereby destroy ours. But if these be imported into *England*, and bought by us, though we buy them cheap, yet when we have them, we may hold up and advance their price, so as to make them bear equal proportion with what we can afford our own for; (which we may do also with their Cattel if Imported again) and being Masters both of their and our own, enforce Foreigners (especially if the Exportation of Wool and Leather be prevented) to be beholding to us for what they want, and can no where else have; whereby Trade will be encreased, Consumption of the Products of our Lands promoted, and thereby the price of them will be raised, and consequently Lands yield better Rents: And by this encrease of Trade, His Majesties Revenue by a moderate Computation, would be advanced above One hundred thousand pounds *per annum*; which would be an additional help towards payment of the Publick Debts, and no prejudice, but a great advantage to his Majesties Subjects.

XI.

THe Eleventh Propofal is, That it may be lawful for any man to assign Bills, Bonds, or other Securities, to any person, or persons whatsoever; and that by virtue of fuch Assignment, the Interest in the faid Debt due upon fuch Security, may immediately be vefted in the Assignee. And to the end that the frauds by falfe Entries in Shop-Books may be prevented. That it be made unlawful for any person after three years to fue for a Book-Debt, and that the great Deceits ufed by many persons, who break meerly to deceive Creditors, may (if poffible) by fome fevere and ftrict Law be prevented: Than which,

First, There is hardly any thing can be of greater advantage to Trade.

Secondly, Of greater security to the Gentry; that they fhall not for the future be wronged.

Thirdly, Of more advantage to the Nation in general.

For want of power to assign Securities, many Tradefmen and Gentlemen are every year undone.

It is true, that men commonly make Letters of Attorney to their Creditors, to enable them to put Bonds, Bills, or other Securities, into fuit, that are made to them; but thofe Letters of Attorney are revokeable; fo that the men to whom they are made, are not fecure, that the perfon that makes them, fhall not afterwards revoke the fame, or difcharge any Suit brought upon any fuch Bill, Bond, or other Security, by virtue of fuch Letters of Attorney: and fo no man will accept of any Bond entred into to another man, and a Letter of Attorney from the perfon to whom the fame is entred into, as a Security for any debt due to himfelf from the perfon to whom fuch Bond is given. Tradefmen live upon Credit, buy much upon Truft, are obliged to pay on certain days; on which if they fail, their Credit is loft; and as they buy upon Credit, fo they muft fell upon Truft: And if the perfon trufted by them, pay not at the time limited, yet are they that truft them obliged to obferve punctually their days of payment, becaufe the Credit of thofe Merchants that truft them, depends thereupon. Nevertheless, many Tradefmen, becaufe they cannot get in what is owing to them, are enforced to fail in point of their payments, which
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lessens their Credit, begets Suits; and those Suits occasion the ruine of many Families, although the persons sued have in other mens hands good Debts, which, when received, would be sufficient to answer all their Creditors.

But if the Assignment of Debts due upon Bill, Bond, or other Securities, were, by Act of Parliament, made lawful, and it were Enacted, that such Assignments should be irrevocable; and that the Interest in the Debts due upon such Security, should by virtue of such Assignments, be actually vested in the Assignee, then if *A.* owed *B.* the Sum of 500*l.* and *B.* owed *C.* 500*l.* and *B.* his time of payment were come, and he had no Moneys to pay the same, the Assignment of *A.* his Bond to *C.* would be accepted, if he were a person answerable, in discharge of *B.* his Debt. And if he had occasion to pay Money, and had it not by him, *C.* might presently assign the said *A.* his Bond to *D.* and *D.* to *E.* &c. And this would make all Bills, Bonds, and other Securities as good as ready Money; which will be of great use to the Subjects, and prevent the multiplicity of Suits that now happen; and thereby the ruines of many Families.

2ly. It will be of great advantage and security to the Gentry; for, if their Bills, Bonds, or other Securities, be assignable, persons to whom they enter into such Securities, though they want Money, will not be hasty to put their Securities in Suit, or compel them (as now they are forced to do) frequently to shift and alter Securities; which is chargeable and difficult; because, then Bonds will be in the nature of ready money, and in Trade be equally as good, when Assignments shall be Enacted to be irrevocable; and that Suits brought thereupon by the Assignees, in their own Names, and to their own Uses, shall not be discharged, but by delivering up the Securities themselves, and that not without the consent of the person to whom by Endorsement on the back of such Securities, it shall appear to have been last assigned: And to Enact that no person shall be Sued for a Book-Debt after three years, would be of excellent use both to Buyer and Seller.

For, frequently it hath happened, that Gentlemen who had taken up Goods upon Trust, living remote in the Countrey, have afterwards sent up Money, and paid for the same, but not seen the Book cross; whereupon, many years after the Death of the Buyer and Seller, by the Executor of the Seller, the Buyer his Executor hath been Sued for the same, and the Plaintiffe hath recovered against him, meerly because such a Debt hath been found standing in the Book, and the de-

livering of the Goods proved; and so a Verdict hath pass'd against the Executor of the Debtor, because he hath not been able to prove payment for the same.

How many; by letting Debts stand long in Shop-keepers Books, have when they came to accompt with them, found Entries made of Goods never bought by them, or of greater quantities than they had of such Goods as they did buy.

But if no Book-Debt shall be sued for after three years standing, it will oblige the Shop-keepers to come to accompt once in three years, and get Bill or Bond for their Moneys whilst things are fresh in memory, or else to sue for the same, when if any thing be found unjust in their Books, the Creditor will be able, by his memory, to discover the same, and prevent payment thereof.

Besides, it will prevent Perjury and other foul practices.

3ly. This Act desired would be of great advantage to the Nation in general; for when passed, all Bills, Bonds, and other good Securities will be *Tantamount* to ready Money, so that there will be 20000 *l.* or as good as 20000 *l.* in *England*, instead of every 1000 *l.* that now is passing in Trade; which must necessarily be a great advantage to the publick.

This Course is practised in other Foreign Parts, and found of as great importance and benefit to Trade, as can be imagined.

And for preventing the Mischiefs arising to Traders by the Knaveries of persons pretending to be Bankrupts, and who break with design only to defraud their Creditors, some further and stricter Act must be made than hitherto there hath been; otherwise there will be no trusting any man, it being frequent for men of wicked and cheating Principles, when they design to break, knowing themselves to be persons not suspected to fail, but of a good Credit, to take up great Parcels of Goods, or Sums of Money of several other Tradesmen; which so soon as they get into their hands, they dispose unto Friends in trust for them, and their Wives, and Children; which done, then they presently do some Act whereby they become Bankrupts; as such are prosecuted, Commissions taken out to declare them Bankrupts whereupon they withdraw and abscond themselves in the Country, till they can get Releases from their Creditors, or compound for some small matter, or otherwise they take the *King's Bench*, lie within the *Rules*, and frequently go abroad; and all that time have the Money they break for, going in Trade in other Names; and from such their Trustees, they receive the benefit thereof; wherewith they live high, whilst their Credit

ditors are undone by them; and if they cannot bring their Creditors to Composition, they will continue all their life-time in the *King's-Bench*, and the Creditors get nothing; so that their Creditors are frequently brought to small Composition: Which done, then these Bankrupts immediately appear in their Shops again richer than ever they were when first set up; and this with other honest mens Stocks, who with their Families are undone through the Losses sustained by those mens knavish breaking. And this Trick some men have plaid several times over; therefore it's fit for the future, if possible, to be prevented.

XII.

THe Twelfth Proposal is, that the *Newcastle-Trade* for Coals be managed by Commissioners for the King, whereby the Subject may be supplied with Coals at easie Rates, and not be exacted upon, as they now are; and about 200000 *l. per Annum* be coming to the Crown; which would be a further help towards the payment of the publick Debts.

I need not declare how the Subjects are abused in the price of Coals.

How many poor have been starved for want of Fewel, by reason of the horrid prices put upon them; especially in time of War, either by the Merchant, or the Woodmonger, or between them both.

That which I shall propose is,

That the whole Trade be managed by Commissioners for the benefit of the publick.

That those Commissioners take care to supply all parts of His Majesties Dominions with Coals.

That Coals be sold all the year long at 22 *s. per Chaldron*, at which rate they may very well be afforded:

For at *Newcastle* they buy them for about 7 *s. per Chaldron*.

The *Newcastle-Chaldron* makes five *London-Chaldrons*.

The Freight of each Chaldron is not above 6 *s.*

The Duty to the City for each Chaldron is but 3 *s.*

Lighterage, Wharfage, and Cartage may cost *per* Chaldron 4 s.
I compute the highest Rates that can be imagined.

And at these Rates, each *Newcastle*-Chaldron will lie the Commissioners but in 20 s.

If then three *Newcastle*-Chaldron computed at 3 l. make five *London*-Chaldrons, and they be sold for 5 l. 10 s. there is very nigh half in half gotten thereby: Considering then, how many hundred thousand Chaldron of Coals are spent every year, and by a moderate computation, it will appear that near 200000 l. *per Annum* advantage may arise hereby to the Publick, and the Subject also receive a great benefit by the same.

XIII.

THe last Proposal is, That the Fishing-Trade may be set up and encouraged, all poor people set at work to make Fishing-Tackle, and be paid out of the yearly Rates laid upon the Subjects for maintaining of the poor.

This would be of vast advantage to the Publick.

The Money yearly paid by the Subjects for the relief of the Poor, is nigh as much as an Assessment of 70000 l. a Month to the King.

This is employed only to maintain idle Persons, doth great hurt rather than good, makes a world of poor more than otherwise there would be, prevents Industry and Laboriousness, Men and Women growing so idle and Proud, that they will not work, but lie upon the Parish wherein they dwell, for Maintenance, applying themselves to nothing but Begging or Pilfering, and breeding up their Children accordingly, never putting them upon any thing that may render them useful in their Generations, or beneficial either to themselves, or the Kingdom.

But if instead of giving them Weekly Allowances for maintaining them in their Idleness, the Money collected were employed to set all of them that are able, at work to some kind of Employment or other, futable to their Capacities, it would be of infinite Use and Advantage to the Nation: There are none except Bedridden or Blind, but some Work or other may be found, that they may be capable of doing; which, if they would not set unto when appointed them, they should have Correction, rather than any Encouragement, which now they have,

have, by allowing them Weekly Maintenance. And thus, not only Men and Women would become useful and beneficial to the Kingdom, but their Children should all of them be employed and set at work, to do something or other that may keep them from Idleness; which becoming habitual to them in their youth, they are seldom broke off whilst they live.

Industry and Labour ought to be countenanced and encouraged, and Magistrates and Gentry would do well to give Examples thereof to those amongst whom they live.

If all the Poor now maintained in their Idleness, were set at work, and paid out of the Money raised as aforesaid, those that now have two Shillings, or three Shillings a Week, might by their Work earn so much; or suppose they could earn but one Shilling sixpence a week, and nevertheless receive three Shillings, it is half in half saved; so that a Moyety of what now is collected from the people, might be spared to them, and yet the Poor be as well, or better maintained than now.

But if Men, Women, and Children were set at work, few Families that now receive two or three Shillings a week, but in all probability, would and might earn four or five Shill. a week, help to Manufacture the Staple-Commodities of the Kingdom at cheap Rates, and thereby bring down the Wages of Handicrafts-men, which now are grown so high, that we have lost the Trade of Foreign Consumption, because abroad Wool and Leather, and the Manufactures thereof, are sold at lower Rates than we can afford ours at. This Mischief of high Wages to Handicrafts-men, is occasioned by reason of the Idleness of so vast a number of people in *England*, as there are, so that those that are Industrious, and will work, make men pay what they please for their Wages; but set the Poor at Work, and then these men will be forced to lower their Rates, whereby we shall quickly come to sell as cheap as Foreigners do, and consequently engross the Trade to our selves.

There are many ways to set the Poor at work, both old and young.

Women and Children, by Spinning of Linnen, Woollen, and Woolsted, Carding, Combing, Knitting, Working Plain-Work, or Points, Making Bone-Lace, or Thred- or Silk-Laces, Brede, and divers other things.

The Linnen-Trade, if well regulated, would employ some hundred thousands of People; and if brought to perfection, might save vast Sums of Money, within the Kingdom, which now are sent out for the same.

The Woollen and Leathern-Manufactories would employ Multitudes

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of Men, and young youths, and [vast] quantities of Wooll might be manufactured and consumed in *England*, more than now is, if all the Tapestry we now use, were made here, which is now imported from beyond the Seas. Also, if the Act for Burying in *Flannel* (as ridiculous as men make it) were put in Execution, seeing Flannel would be as good for that use, as Linnen, abundance of our Poor would be employed in making these things. And the Money now paid for these Foreign Manufactures, would be kept in *England*, and defray the Charge of the Manufacturing of them at home.

It is not to be imagined how many thousands of Men, Women, and Children the Fishing-Trade (which is that I principally aim at) would keep in employment. The making of the Nets, Sayls, Cordage, and other Materials for that use, the Building of Fishing-Vessels, and the Catching and Curing of the Fish, when catch'd, would find work for above two hundred thousand People, and would encrease the number of Sea-men, Ship-wrights, and many Handicrafts-men: A great Revenue, if well managed, would thereby arise to the Publick; and the Fish taken would be as good to us, as so much Ready-Money; and be taken off beyond Seas, in Exchange for such Goods as we necessarily want, and have from Foreign Parts, and now pay Ready Money for.

To conclude, Were the things Proposed as aforesaid done, as desired, Trade would be encouraged and encreased; the Provisions and Manufactures of the Kingdom be in far greater quantities consumed, both at home and abroad, the Price of Lands would be raised, Tenants be enabled to pay their Rents, the Kingdom would be greatly enriched, and in a few years the Publick Debts of the Kingdom might be discharged, without Imposing any considerable Tax upon the People.

FINIS.

